

# Leys News

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November/December 2009

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## Win Christmas!

Turn to the centre pages to find out how you and your family could be having a bumper Christmas, thanks to our special competition!



## Oxford United triumph!

All the football action from your local team on the back page, plus NEW motor sport column.

# New £1 million eco nursery for Blackbird Leys



BLACKBIRD LEYS HAS a brand new £1 million nursery that will cater for more than 70 local children and use renewable energy.

BBC Children's presenter Barney Harwood celebrated the opening of the new facility with

the help of Oxford children.

The Co-operative Childcare nursery at Blackbird Leys was officially opened on October 1 by MP Andrew Smith and local councillor Val Smith, while Barney – who has

won a BAFTA for his presenting work – read to the children to welcome National Children's Book Week.

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## Award for 'outstanding' Leys care worker

GERTRUDE WILLIAMS from Blackbird Leys was one of three Oxfordshire Care Workers who received recognition for a combined 90 years of service caring for Oxfordshire's older people.

The Orders of St John Care Trust (OSJCT), the UK's second largest not for profit care home provider, held the 2009 Oxfordshire Awards Ceremony for staff from its 17 homes across the county at The Kings Centre, Osney Mead.

Gertrude Williams, Pauline Gill and Janet Edwards, who all work in Oxford, received long-service awards for their dedication, commitment and enthusiasm to the care of older people.

Night Care Assistant, Gertrude Williams, from Longlands in Blackbird Leys, was recognised for 40 years of service. Gertrude is dedicated to helping Longlands' residents on a domestic, social and emotional level and has made an outstanding contribution to the care of residents.

Pauline Gill, Care Leader from Marston Court in Marston received a 25 years long service award for her contribution to the caring profession. Pauline often goes that extra mile and continually ensures that residents have exciting and challenging activities to do in order to have the best quality of life in the home. 4

Housekeeper Janet Edwards also received a long-service award for 25 years. Based at Townsend House in Barton, Janet provides a first-class service to the residents ensuring the home is a warm, clean and welcoming place. She also plays a leading role in fundraising activities for the home.

Nine long-service awards for 25, 30, 35 and 40 years service to the Trust were also given to other OSJCT employees across Oxfordshire, totalling 265 years.

Certificates were presented to staff who



achieved NVQs in Care, Housekeeping, Catering and Administration, as well as City and Guilds qualifications in Training Practice, Moving and Handling, Accounting and Supervisory Management.

The certificates were presented in front of Trustees, colleagues and family members.

Speaking at the ceremony, Nigel Reed, OSJCT's Chief Executive, said: "The awards ceremony is an opportunity for colleagues, residents, friends and partners of OSJCT to come together to celebrate the hard work shown by our team and say a big thank you to all of our staff.

"We are extremely proud of the high standards of care we provide and recognise that this is down to the dedication shown by everyone who works in the Trust."

## A safer life on The Leys

SECURITY CAMERAS AND extra police resources in Blackbird Leys will reduce crime, vandalism and antisocial behaviour.

Plans to make life on The Leys safer have just been announced and Blackbird Leys will be a key target during a two month police crackdown on antisocial behaviour across the Thames Valley.

Thames Valley Police's Operation Confidence has now launched across the region to crack down on crime and disorder, and target drunken and disorderly behaviour, violence and criminal damage.

Extra resources will be made available to Blackbird Leys where up to 50 reports of antisocial behaviour are received by police every week.

Windrush and Evenlode Towers in Blackbird Leys are to get a share of £110,000 worth of investment in CCTV cameras.

The high-rise tower block will be monitored to try and curb vandalism and antisocial behaviour.

Both the tower blocks in Blackbird Leys will be constantly monitored from St Aldate's Police Station, meaning that officers will be able to respond quickly to any incidents.

Problems involving groups of young people smoking, drinking and taking drugs have been escalating for the last ten years, and the seven



cameras that have been installed at Evenlode Tower, and seven in Windrush Tower are positioned inside lifts and around the entrances.

An extra camera has been attached at Evenlode Tower to monitor shops in nearby Blackbird Leys Road, an antisocial behaviour hotspot.

## Oxford Green Belt saved

Plans for thousands of home thrown out

Controversial plans to build thousands of homes on green belt land in Grenoble Road, Oxford have been thrown out.

The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England said that following their legal challenge to the South East Plan, the Secretary of State has conceded that insufficient consideration had been given to alternatives to the proposed urban extension

in the Green Belt south of Grenoble Road.

Although details have still to be hammered out with the Department for Communities and Local Government, this almost certainly means that the current proposal in the South East Plan to grab Green Belt land south of the City for a 4,000 house urban extension is dead.

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# Leys News 70

## November/December 2009

**Leys News** is a not-for-profit business dedicated to providing news and information to the whole community. We are not affiliated to any political party, and we operate an equal opportunities policy. We encourage any resident to get involved in our work.

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# Editorial

IT HAS BEEN a hectic couple of months since my first issue of Leys News came out, and this edition of the paper is well and truly packed with news and features about your community.

In fact, I can't believe that it is very nearly Christmas already and to celebrate this time of year we have lots of fabulous Christmas goodies to give away on our special festive competition pages.

Leys News is at the heart of your community, and we aim to provide a balanced news and information service for all our readers. All newspapers should carry a good mix of news, features and sport and I am delighted to have rekindled our partnership with Oxford United Football Club and from now on we will be carrying regular match reports thanks to our new sports correspondent Jacek. Chris Williams at the club has been pivotal in making this happen, and we are all looking forward to a positive and interesting future as we work together in our community.

Sport is a way for communities to join together, and Oxford United offers a lot of opportunities for keen young sportsmen and women through its youth programme. As well as local football coverage, we have also introduced some motorsport news into the paper. Oxfordshire is well known as being 'motorsport valley' and we know that The Leys has a lot of die hard motor sport fans who support the sport and enjoy the races. With this in mind, our new motorsport writer Kevin Dyer will be keeping us all up to date with what's new at all our local teams.

If you have a burning desire to contribute to future issues of Leys News, we would love to hear from you. We will shortly be running a free informal workshop for all new and existing community journalists so if you would like to book a place, please email me editor@leysnews.co.uk as soon as possible to reserve your place.

I hope you enjoy issue 70 of Leys News and I look forward to hearing from you.

*Best wishes*  
*Sarah*

**PS. Don't forget to check out our competition to win lots of Christmas goodies!**

# Calling all community groups!

Community groups across The Leys are being asked to take part in a new initiative being organised by The Leys Linx Centre.

The new information pack will contain important and useful information about all the relevant services available in the area.

Information Worker at The Leys Linx Centre, Paula Williams, said: "I am working with our new volunteer Isna Koch and between us we are looking to create a new information pack with all the relevant details of services available on Blackbird Leys and Greater Leys, and services that would be beneficial to the residents on both estates.

It would be great if anyone who offers services and wants to advertise their group or organisation in the pack could contact us with all relevant details. It could be churches, church groups, health services, brownies and guides, cubs, shops, schools, youth clubs and any other community groups.

We understand that not everyone has access to the internet and a physical booklet with all these details will be made available to anyone accessing the Blackbird Leys Youth and Community Centre."

Paula and Izzy can be contacted at: The Leys Linx Centre, Blackbird Leys Youth & Community Centre, Blackbird Leys Road, Blackbird Leys, Oxford OX4 6HW  
Telephone 01865 402070  
Email: leyslinx@hotmail.com

# Oxford Green Belt saved – Continued from page 1

Michael Tyce, CPRE Chairman for Thame District, said: "This is not only good news for the Green Belt but for Oxford too. It has always been CPRE's case that reckless expansion is the wrong track for our unique and historic City to take, and the City Council are misguided to pursue it. The Green Belt setting, and the beauty of the City itself, are its greatest assets and would not survive the City Council's endless push for growth and the urban sprawl that would entail."

He added: "CPRE has consistently said, at all stages of the development of the South East Plan that the best strategy for Oxford is to use land within the City to solve its present housing pressures, not to build shops and offices which will pull yet more people into Oxford and make its problems worse.

Following the Secretary of State's decision to accept the validity of CPRE's challenge, the strategy for Oxford will now have to be reconsidered. And in the light of the fact that economic times are very different from when the Government's plan was written three years ago, we are confident that commonsense will now prevail, and all thought of Oxford being allowed to sprawl over the Green Belt will be abandoned."

Michael Tyce concluded: "If it should be resurrected we stand ready to fight it again."

# Letters

## Goodbye as we leave for Kenya

**The Mukholi family have been a positive influence in the estate for the past few years. As they prepare to return to Kenya, Patrick wrote to Leys News telling us of some of the highs and lows of living and working here**



**Patrick Mukholi (Right) with Darren James.**

I DON'T THINK for me the pressure of ministry and the pressure of studies and family have gone well. Everything seems to have stretched somewhat. Even so, it is fulfilling to see some of the young people we first engaged with now 'responsible' dads and mums. Others are moving on to a more positive outlook to make a brighter future for themselves. One hopes that some input went into their positive formation.

As we leave Blackbird and Greater Leys, we think of the many people, many young people with rich personalities and qualities we have been privileged to be shaped by and hopefully have helped shape. We hope with all our frailties we have in some way been a blessing. Yes a lot has been taken from us (more than people imagine), but we have also taken in a lot. We look forward to going back to Kenya, lighter, fuller and wiser. Of course a bit older!

We apologise for those we have disappointed. Having been introduced as Christians from Africa where the Gospel is thriving, some expected that a lot of miraculous stuff would happen. That sort of expectation has sometimes been quite frustrating. People discovered that we were simple Jesus followers, intent on serving Him by serving young people with the gifts that He has privileged us. We have tried our best to remain in focus.

For me one of the things I could change if I were to do this all over again is to be more focused rather than being wide and thinly spread. The exhilarating spread from the Oxford School, Peers, CDI and Tuesday Club (amongst others) has simply been exhausting. Learning to say no to the many opportunities has also been hard. How could we ever have told young people who sometimes have looked at our house like an extension of the youth club, "no it's now our family time, please go away"? Or a neighbour who needed to talk or cry, knocking at the door just when you are retiring to sleep? Or someone stops you for an urgent chat, on the way to the bus stop to attend a staff meeting? It is hard to turn people away.

There is no better place to be shaped than the Leys. The Leys Enders are fantastic people. It's a privilege to be one of them. We are proud to be Blackbird and Greater Leysians. There is nowhere else that God would have had us be.

One of my regrets is having no one on the horizon at the moment to take Youth First to the next level. We would like to have worked with them in this final year. I am sure the Lord is bringing in such ones. We have had the privilege to point people in particular directions for ministry on the estate including pastors and social and community workers who felt Jesus wanted them on the estate. There are many taking up some of our dreams for the estate. It is still our hope that some people across the denominations will take the idea of 'The Car Boot Church' enthusiastically and run with it.

One of my frustrations though, has been to see, the more able and fired up city centre and North Oxford Christians and fellowships live as if places like the Leys did not exist, in spite of heaven touching worship services and great expository messages. Why don't these trickle down to our discipleship? The scant local congregations and Christians, work terribly hard to be an incarnational presence. They try to encourage tangible discipleship, as our brethren in 'the Oxford' grow spiritually obese and ignore the spiritual deprivation.. I feel we still need their bristly\* support and encouragement. Even a visit to a lean fellowship speaks volumes of Christ's love. In any case, they definitely will learn from and be transformed by the estate. Who wants to be uprooted from middle class mindsets anyway? Some of those who felt moved to come, have more often than not, not wanted to walk alongside the estate, but have wanted to do their own fixing thing, their own way, because theirs is "the only way that works". And it is evangelical and charismatic and all that. I don't know why they complain that their ministry is rejected.

As a father, I have watched worryingly as our son went through stages of stress at school and outside, and wondered whether he too would end up like some who seem to have given up on themselves. It's with thanksgiving and with joy that I have watched him get to college, get an evening job and trawl the UCAS website. He is now at the University of Gloucestershire doing Graphic Design.

Tuesday Club: Youth First Tuesday Club has been the main activity we have organised and managed. Over the last seven years we have had the privilege to provide adult friendships to young people on the estate and to learn from each other. Tuesday club has been a places where those who were not comfortable going to other clubs, are comfortable. We have played together, gone on trips and camps together, sat and sometimes prayed together, eaten together and had debates together. People we sometimes wished never came to the club now consider themselves as associates of the club. When they do come, they complain that the little kids there now are 'so annoying.' Just a few years ago they were the annoying kids in the club!

We will miss the Leys as we settle back in Kenya at the Bishop Hannington Bible and Development Institute in Mombasa. We are grateful to God for people like Darren and Daphne James, Marsha and Zaki, Joanna Barrett, David Parry, Jim Hewitt, Lex Francis, Cora and Patsy, Mel Morgan and Callum Ward for their encouragement and inspiration over the years. May God continue to bless Blackbird Leys. Kwa heri my friends.

**Patrick Mukholi**

*\*A concoction of brotherly and sisterly. Sisterly doesn't sound good.*



# New outreach help for drink and drugs worries



**SMART launched its new mobile outreach service in September to offer advice, help and support to anyone who has concerns about drinking and drug use.**

The unit will visit key towns across Oxfordshire offering a place to go for anyone with concerns about their drinking or drug use.

Drug and alcohol workers onboard will be available for anyone who wants to talk about their own drinking or drug use or for general advice about concerns for friends or family. The private one-to-one room will be available for people to speak confidentially to SMART workers to get advice, have an assessment, or to see their drug or alcohol worker on a regular basis.

SMART's Chief Executive Darren Worthington says "With the new mobile outreach service, our aim is to provide drug and alcohol interventions that are accessible to all communities in Oxfordshire regardless of their location. To achieve this, our mobile outreach service will take our support to many more locations, particularly those with growing or hidden substance misuse problems. We will offer support to individuals throughout their journey towards a life that's free of drug and alcohol use"

The service will stop at 11 locations across the county, visiting Barton, Berinsfield, Blackbird Leys, Burford, Carterton, Chipping Norton, Faringdon, Henley, Thame, Wallingford and

Wantage.

The service is commissioned by Oxfordshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team, whose role is to implement and co-ordinate the Government's National Drug Strategy across the county.

South Oxfordshire District Council Chairman, Cllr Malcolm Leonard welcomes the additional support that SMART's mobile outreach service will provide for Oxfordshire's towns and suburbs and is pleased to be able to host the launch and support this new service.

Cllr Jill Dunsmore portfolio holder for Community Safety at West Oxfordshire District Council and chairman of the West Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership says "West

Oxfordshire District Council and the West Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership is very supportive of this new initiative which is in line with the partnerships priorities to support vulnerable communities and tackle crimes associated with alcohol and substance misuse.

"It is very exciting and will be a huge benefit to our residents in the more rural communities"

*If you are interested in finding out more about how SMART's mobile outreach service can help: call the SMART Helpline on 01865 403151, or email enquiries@smartcjs.org.uk*

[www.smartcjs.org.uk](http://www.smartcjs.org.uk)

## Action against burglaries

**A Force-wide crackdown on burglary enters a new phase this month as Thames Valley Police launches a month of action.**

The month of action begins with police targeting students with crime prevention advice as they return to university for the start of their academic year.

Following the launch of Operation Breaker in July this year, burglary has fallen by 15.6 per cent in Thames Valley compared to the same period last year. In those 11 weeks, 667 arrests were made for burglary.

Superintendent Barry Halliday, leading on Operation Breaker, said: "Many young people are living independently away from their parents for the first time. They are not necessarily aware of the steps they can take to secure their accommodation and their belongings.

"Moving out of your parents' home is an exciting time, and we want to make sure it stays memorable for all the right reasons."

Thames Valley Police crime prevention and reduction advisers, alongside neighbourhood policing officers, are delivering crime prevention advice to thousands of students during Freshers' fairs and other activities at universities across Thames Valley.

Superintendent Halliday continued: "During this month of action, we will ramp up the pressure on burglars. Operation Breaker is not just about targeting people who commit burglary – of equal importance is making sure that these types of offences do not occur in the first place.

"I and my officers will be working flat out to make sure that students have access to the advice and support they need to avoid becoming a victim of crime. A few simple steps could prevent you losing your laptop and potentially all of your coursework."

To launch this new phase of Operation Breaker, Superintendent Halliday will join PCs Chris Miles and Jon Shaw, from the Headington neighbourhood policing team, as they patrol around student homes in the area.

the officers spot an open window, they will put a leaflet through it explaining that they could have been a burglar. If the residents of the property are in, they will also offer them crime reduction advice.

## BLAP Survey

**The Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground has received stage one approval for a community spaces grant, and now needs to hear from YOU!**

The news means that there is a great chance that the project will get £93,000 to improve the play facilities. BLAP is now calling on adults and children from The Leys to give their views to help the project get through Stage 2 of the Approval Process. BLAP now need to know:

- What would you like to see in the playground?
- Why would improved play facilities at BLAP be good for the Leys?
- How would improved play facilities at BLAP benefit local children?

*Send your ideas NOW to: The Project Leader, BLAP, c/o The Leys Linx Centre, Blackbird Leys Youth & Community Centre, Blackbird Leys Road, OXFORD OX4 6HW, or email: [blackbirdleys.adventure@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:blackbirdleys.adventure@yahoo.co.uk)*

## Man cautioned after drugs raid

A 22-year-old man who arrested on suspicion of possession of cannabis with intent to supply was released without charge.

The arrest last week followed a raid on a house in Merlin Road, Blackbird Leys. At that time, PC Pete Ciechan said: "Upon searching the premises we have discovered what appears to be a small quantity of cannabis.

"However, we have also found paraphernalia that indicates the property is being used for the sale of drugs.

"This warrant has been executed as part of Operation Confidence, a Force-wide initiative to crackdown on anti-social behaviour."

The 22-year-old man received a caution for possession but the allegation of intent to supply was dropped.

### New eco nursery – Continued from page 1

...The £1 million development for Midcounties Co-operative replaces the old facility on the Oxford and Cherwell Valley College site and is now sited at the old Blackbird Leys skate park.

The Co-operative Childcare General Manager Haydn Lunn said: "We are incredibly proud of this new facility. It's a fantastic modern setting which will enable us to deliver the highest standard of care. The nursery will welcome 72 children, mostly from the local estate, so is central to the community.

"The new Blackbird Leys nursery comes at an exciting time for us, as the entire childcare network in the Midcounties region is undergoing change. Settings will no longer be known as 'Imagine Co-operative Childcare' and are now part of The Co-operative family as 'The Co-operative Childcare' – taking on all the ethics and values that are part and parcel of the brand."

The eco-friendly nursery on Cuddesdon Way is built with sus-

tainable materials, sourced locally. An electrical voltage reducer, solar panels and sun tubes will provide renewable energy for the building and collected rain water will replace mains water in the toilet system.

As part of its investment in the local area Midcounties Co-operative is also contributing to a brand new skate park. The Midcounties Co-operative is based in Oxford and Walsall, with trading outlets stretching to Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire and surrounding counties. The Society is the second largest independent co-operative in the UK. The Midcounties Co-operative is a £700m business with more than 550 branches, 7,000 employees and 300,000 members.

A spokesman said: "Our aim is to be a successful consumer co-operative working towards creating a better, fairer world, and to enhance the lives of our colleagues, members, customers, and the communities we serve."

### Award for care worker – Continued from page 1

...The certificates were presented in front of Trustees, colleagues and family members.

Speaking at the ceremony, Nigel Reed, OSJCT's Chief Executive, said: "The awards ceremony is an opportunity for colleagues, residents, friends and partners of OSJCT to come together to celebrate the hard work shown by our team and say a big thank you to all of our staff. We are extremely proud of the high standards of care we provide and recognise that this is down to the dedication shown by everyone who works in the Trust."

## Flexible home loans for older residents

**Residents who own their home and are aged over 60 can apply for loans from Oxford City Council to carry out improvement work on their homes.**

THE LOANS ARE available for work to improve the warmth, comfort, safety and security of their homes.

Councillors at Oxford City Council's City Executive Board agreed to join the scheme at their meeting in September.

It means that Oxford City Council have £213,100 available for residents to apply for.

Councillor Ed Turner, Board Member for Strategic Housing, says: "This is an excellent scheme which means that local authorities can help those in privately owned houses with a loan to carry out improvements on their homes.

"Residents will be able to apply for loans for a variety of things including bathroom improvements, new front doors, or new boilers.

"The aim of the loans is to help improve the warmth, comfort, safety and security of people's homes.

"We will then work out a repayment scheme to best suit the individual to ensure that they don't get into financial difficulties.

"We want residents to be happy and comfortable in their own homes

and this funding could help them with that."

Residents will be able to apply for a minimum of £1000 and will be able to pay it back on a regular or irregular basis. The amount borrowed plus any additional interest will be repaid from the proceeds from the sale of the property after the borrower dies or if they vacate their home and go into long term care.

Residents can carry out a variety of work with the loans including updating or re-wiring the house, new boiler, new windows or even a new bathroom.

The scheme was set up in 2008 and a consortium of local authorities has secured funding from the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) of £16 million over the next three years.

The consortium consists of Bracknell Forest, Cherwell, Chiltern, Milton Keynes, Slough, Surrey Heath, Vale of White Horse, West Berkshire, Windsor & Maidenhead and Wycombe.





*There for you*

## **SPAR Dunnock Way Greater Leys**

**Breakfast**  
**Breakfast Rolls**  
**From £1.49**

**Lunch**  
2 Sausage Rolls: £1.50  
Double Cheeseburger  
+ Bacon: £2.19

**Great**  
**Offers**  
**On Fruit & Veg**

**Italian**  
**Wine**  
**2 For £5.50**



**OPEN 7AM TILL 10PM - 7 DAYS A WEEK**



# Make your mark on your new theatre



Pegasus Theatre is nearing the midway point of its major building programme with the majority of the structure being completed in October. Plans to incorporate a significant amount of art into the building is starting with a free weekend workshop led by the project's commissioned artist Matthew Lane Sanderson on November 14 and 15 at 10am and 2pm.

Matthew, a sculptor who specializes in metalwork with natural

and organic themes, will be showing family groups and individuals how they can create their own piece of art that will be displayed in the new Pegasus Theatre. Using a technique he describes as 'wire drawing' those taking part will be able to make a two dimensional sculpture within a frame on any theme. These metal 'pictures' will appear both internally and externally and will be the first exhibition to be on show once the building opens. Everyone

will be able to make a unique print from their wire drawing on the day to take home and keep.

The workshop and exhibition are the latest opportunity for community involvement offered by the Pegasus Theatre redevelopment project. Young people who attend workshops and courses run by the theatre, as well as many local residents, have been deeply involved in developing plans for the building, its activities and future. They, along with other family members, will be among the first to take part in the workshops which have already proved to be extremely popular.

A Cambridge based artist, Matthew's work has attracted a great deal of interest around the country and he has been commissioned for an exciting range of projects (The Corpus Clock, Eater of Time – a timepiece designed as a mythological style creature with moving parts – the Taylor Library, Corpus Christi Cambridge; Benefactors Column – a series of glass seed 'wings' mounted on a 2 storey column – Cheshire Science Centre, Warwick School, Warwick; The Sprinting Afghan Hound – a life-size, cast bronze portrait, bisected and complete with full skeleton - Royal Dick Veterinary Centre, Edinburgh).

*The exhibition of community work will be unveiled alongside Matthew's creations for the building in 2010.*



## Trisha's Beats

### In the studio with Roundhouse

The noise hits you first. At a practice session you expect mistakes and trial and error. The boys were tight and organised with a real set ready to play for an exclusive small audience!

After opening with one of their own tracks, the following was definitely a crowd pleaser and nearly as good as the real thing. The Foo Fighters' "All My Life" was covered very well and the band also covered Chad Kroeger's "Hero", the theme from Spider Man. I have to say it was overall really moving. They have come such a long way from Illusion Overtone and the musical switch around has kept the band fresh and up beat. They all work really well together – it comes across in the music and the way they gel together.

The song "Love Thief", written by the boys, made an impact. The song is about an ex fellow band mate and it really captures you in the moment and gives you an understanding of the recent change.

I have seen many unsigned bands live and through links, but Roundhouse are, and I think always will be, my favourite. I recommend you go to the website and have a listen [www.roundhousemusic.co.uk](http://www.roundhousemusic.co.uk) and watch out for these boys to be signed in the very near future.

### Things you never knew: three random facts that surprised even me!

- The first pop video was "Bohemian Rhapsody" by Queen, released in 1975.
- Akon's "Smack" debuted at number 95 in October 2006. The next week it was number seven. That jump of 88 positions was the single biggest jump in Billboard's history.
- Paul Weller played guitar on "Champagne Supernova" by Oasis

### Go out and buy it!

An album fifteen years in the making, rock gods the Foo Fighters are poised to release their first greatest hits collection entitled Foo Fighters *Greatest Hits*. The album includes the band's chart-toppers as well as two newly released tracks. Such hits include "All My Life", "Learn to fly", "Big Me", and "Ever long". This album certifies a place in rock history for this legendary band.

**Also:** Brittany Spears is releasing a singles collection and the follow up album from one republic Waking up will be available on i-tunes from November 17th

**I'm listening to:** the new Newton Faulkner album. Follow-up to his amazing album *Hand Built by Robots*, the new album is titled *Hand Built by Humans*.

### What's On

- Peter Andre has announced his tour dates for the 02 Academy Oxford, Tickets have already gone on sale.
- November brings N Dubz back to Oxford 02 Academy for a pre Christmas party 9th Nov.
- The New Theatre is offering you a chance To Sing-along ABBA on the 14th Nov. Tickets on sale but selling fast.
- Status Quo are playing two dates at The New Theatre 27th-28th Nov.
- Will Young has also announced one Oxford date at the end of the year Dec 3rd.

### Laugh Out Loud?

Ed Byrne kicks off November at The New Theatre on 12th Nov, with Jimmy Carr performing on the 5th Dec.

Until next time  
xxx

## Whispering Bob Harris to be patron of Oxfringe festival

**Oxfringe – Oxford's exciting new multi-genre arts festival – is thrilled that celebrated presenter and broadcaster "Whispering" Bob Harris is now its Music Patron.**

Something of a legend in his own lifetime and often described as the 'John Peel of country music' Bob is currently presenter of The Bob Harris Show and Bob Harris Country on Radio 2.

More than thirty years ago his television programme The Old Grey Whistle Test was a must-see show for music lovers and musicians everywhere and is etched on many memories. Then, as now, he was championing a very eclectic range of music to an audience who warmed to his boundless enthusiasm and razor-sharp knowledge of his subject.

That charismatic enthusiasm is much in evidence when Bob speaks about his role as Music Patron: "My work is inspired by new music and it's wonderful to be involved with Oxfringe."

"New music is the lifeblood of my industry and I can't wait to get further involved with the fantastic energy of the Oxfordshire independent music community, promoting and

supporting our exciting local acts."

Bob Harris is less well-known for co-founding Time Out magazine in 1968 and for a string of accolades within the music industry including International Broadcaster of the Year (from the Country Music Association) in 2004.

As Patron, Bob will naturally be interested in the music programme at Oxfringe which runs March 24 to April 11 2010, including endorsing and presenting a special event for up-and-coming local bands. Keep an eye on the website for more details [www.oxfringe.com](http://www.oxfringe.com).

Oxfringe is a not-for-profit organisation, run by Heather Dunmore and Sarah Jones (co-directors) that began with just two events in 2007. In 2008 there were 39 shows across around 60 performances, growing to 147 events across 27 venues for 2009.

*The Oxfringe Autumn Acoustics brochure is available now across the city and on the website. Further press information and photographs are available at [www.oxfringe.com/pressinfo](http://www.oxfringe.com/pressinfo)*

## Creation unveil a brand new Beauty and the Beast for Christmas



CREATION THEATRE COMPANY will once again be performing a new Christmas show at the wonderful hundred year old Spiegeltent or Mirror Tent at MINI Plant Oxford November 27 until January 16. This new version of Beauty and the Beast is by Daniel Bye and will be directed by Sarah Punshon.

This husband and wife team are both new to Creation and along with designer Rachael Canning will create a fresh, modern and magical retelling of this popular fairytale. Like the company's very successful previous seasonal shows, Beauty and the Beast will be full of fantasy, music and comedy. The in-the-round production will have an ensemble of six actors, who also play all the music live on stage and create the sound effects, making a Christmas show with a difference – forget cartoons and Disney this is Beauty and the Beast done in Creation Theatre Company's wonderfully unique and dynamic way.

The action takes place on a circular stage in the centre of the amazingly opulent, antique Mirror Tent, where cabaret-style seating allows the audience to sit at small individual candle-lit tables to watch the performance. The tent's velvet canopies, mirrored roof and ornate pillars and booths will make the perfect setting for Beauty and the Beast, creating an enchanting ambience for this well-loved tale and adding further to the spell-binding experience. Audiences can also enjoy refreshments at their table before the show or in the interval. This promises to be a very special Christmas show, a real alternative to panto, and great fun for everyone from six to 106!

*Tickets, which start at only £8.50 for Beauty and the Beast are on sale now from the Box Office on 01865 766266 or at [www.creationtheatre.co.uk](http://www.creationtheatre.co.uk).*



An Oxford Playhouse Pantomime

Friday 4 December 2009  
to Sunday 17 January 2010

# JACK and the BEANSTALK

Written and directed by Peter Duncan

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# Business booming at Boiler Room



BUSINESS IS BOOMING at The Boiler Room Cafe in Blackbird Leys, and staff are rushed off their feet providing healthy food for their customers.

Following the refurbishment of the cafe kitchen over the summer break, and a bumper harvest from the Pegasus School allotment, staff have been busier than ever serving healthy snacks and lunches to both customers and pupils.

Tina Davidson, manager of the Boiler Room Cafe, said: "I am also the catering manager for Pegasus School and healthy food is a big priority for us. Our aim is to produce healthy food for the children's school lunches as well as for customers in the cafe so chips are definitely off our menu!"

"It is all about balance, and we have between 30 and 100 people a day coming to the cafe for snacks and drinks as well as lunches. The feedback we get is that people really like the fact that our food is healthy, they can't be tempted! Our new kitchen means we can be open for 50 weeks of the year, so even if the school is closed, we will still be here."

The Boiler Room Cafe has very close links to Pegasus School, and children

grow and harvest their own fruit, vegetables and salad on the school's allotments.

Among the keen young gardeners at Pegasus School are Alfie Sims aged eight, Lee Harris aged eight, Chloe Irving, aged nine and Thelma Machiha aged ten. They are all supervised by the watchful eye of Alison Dring, the school's Outdoor Learning Creativity and Enterprise Leader, as well as head teacher Jill Hudson.

Alison said: "We have had a grant to get the allotments going and Nicholsons Nurseries have also helped with the design work, Grant Thornton cleared the allotment for us and Nominet donated some tools so we have been very lucky!"

Alfie said: "It's great having an allotment, we can grow all kinds of stuff even grapes." Lee said: "I love

gardening at school because my Nan brought in some plants for us to grow."

Chloe added: "We plant, grow and deliver the food. The potatoes and runner beans are really good and it's great that we can have them in our school dinners." Thelma said: "It's really good for the school that we can grow our own plants because we can sell some of them and raise some money too."

Tina added: "Every week the children bring me their produce and we discuss what we are going to do with it, how it will be used and cooked and what kind of recipes we could try out. I love it when they come in with armfuls of food! It's great that we can plan our lunch menus together. The children also supply each table in the cafe with a vase of flowers that have been grown by them."

*The Boiler Room Cafe is open until 4.15pm from Monday to Friday and until 3pm on Saturday. There is a full breakfast menu, as well as baguettes, sandwiches and drinks and snacks. The cafe is open to the public and staffed by Tina and her team, Jackie Brown and Lucy Kibble, while school dinners are masterminded by Zoe Barrett, Tracey Gayle and Delvise Saunders.*

**Above left: Pupils on the Pegasus School allotment.**

**Below: The Boiler Room Cafe team.**



## Diwali party at Kassam Stadium



**Nirmala (right) at the Diwali party at the Kassam Stadium**

BY NIRMALA DEVI THE OXFORD HINDU TEMPLE and Community Centre Project held a Diwali party at the Kassam Stadium to help raise funds for a Hindu Temple in Oxford.

Guests enjoyed a sumptuous three course vegetarian dinner as part of the joyous celebration of the coming of Lord Rama. On this day he returned to his birthplace, Ayodhya, after spending 14 years in

exile.

The people of Ayodhya lit thousands of clay lamps called deepas to welcome Lord Tama, Sita and Lakshman. Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, is worshipped for prosperity and wellbeing.

Diwali or Deepavali literally means row of lamps. It falls on the night of the new moon in October or November.

**For more information about The Oxford Hindu Temple and Community Centre Project contact:**

**ohtpteam@yahoo.co.ukwww.oxfordhindutempleproject.org**

## Electric powered vehicle used in the city

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL is trialling an electric powered vehicle which produces no exhaust fumes and is virtually silent.

The vehicle, a 3.5 ton Nissan Cabstar, is being put to work on refuse collections in the city centre throughout September after it was placed with the council by Oxfordshire based CBL Electric Vehicles.

The trial will show the company how their vehicle, which uses no other fuel, performs over a longer period of time.

The vehicle, which is clean and quiet, has a range of 60 miles and its top speed is fixed at the city's new 20mph limit.

Councillor John Tanner, Board

Member for a Cleaner, Greener City, says: "I'm thrilled that we are trialling this green electric vehicle in Oxford."

"This is good for Oxford's carbon footprint and should help other councils to cut their carbon emissions too."

"We are pleased to be helping a local Oxfordshire company develop clean vehicles for the future that can use renewable energy."

John Lenehan, CBL's Managing Director, says: "Working with the City Council will give us a great opportunity to fine tune this unique Oxfordshire built vehicle prior to launching it with some of our existing customers and developing it for future markets."

# Catalyst Communities Housing Association has a 2 bedroom house in Thistledown Close, Greater Leys available for immediate rent to key workers.

The rent is £714 per calendar month.

For further information and to arrange a viewing please contact Susan Ford or Dawn Nash on 01865 712244.



**Catalyst  
Communities**



## ADVERTISING FEATURE

# Treat yourself and eat out locally in The Leys

**If the thought of cooking yet another meal for the family is the last thing you feel like doing, then why not treat yourselves to a meal out at one of the local eateries?**

THE LEYS HAS some great options for eating out locally and menus to suit all tastes and budgets, from Caribbean and Chinese to traditional pub meals and take aways, there are plenty of options to get your tastebuds tingling!

The Bullnose Morris in Blackbird Leys is now under the new management of Gary and Lynne and they are really looking forward to welcoming customers. The pub serves food from 12 noon daily and has a wide variety of dishes to choose from. Lunchtime meal deals are available until 3pm and the great value two meals for £8 offer is available Monday to Friday all day!

Lynne said: "We are able to cater for large parties so

why not bring your family and friends for a meal and a drink, and we are now taking bookings for Christmas Parties."

Saudia's Taste of Jamaica at The Blackbird in Blackbird Leys Road brings diners the true taste of the Caribbean, using traditional recipes that have been passed down from three generations.

Lunch is served from midday until 2pm and in the evening from 5pm, the Christmas Menu for The Blackbird will be available from 7th December, and food can be served at the bar or in the restaurant area

Saudia's Taste of Jamaica is also available at your home

or office, as she offers first class catering that is full of flavour for your business lunch, party, wedding, christening, funeral or other special occasion.

The Taste of India offers delicious Indian food in a village location. The restaurant, which also offers a take-away and delivery service, has recently been refurbished. From Blackbird Leys you can be there in a five minute drive.

Oxy Oriental has been a great hit since it opened in the Ozone Leisure park. Ideal before or after you've been bowling or seen a show at the cinema. One of the great advantages of the delicious oriental buffet is the chance to sample lots of different dishes in one meal.

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Live entertainment: Elvis Night – 8th December – taking bookings

**FREE HOME DELIVERY** – English dishes also available

## Saudia's TASTE OF JAMAICA

@ The Blackbird, Blackbird Leys Road



**The true taste of the Caribbean. Recipes from three generations.**

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**Christmas Menu**

@ The Blackbird from 7th December

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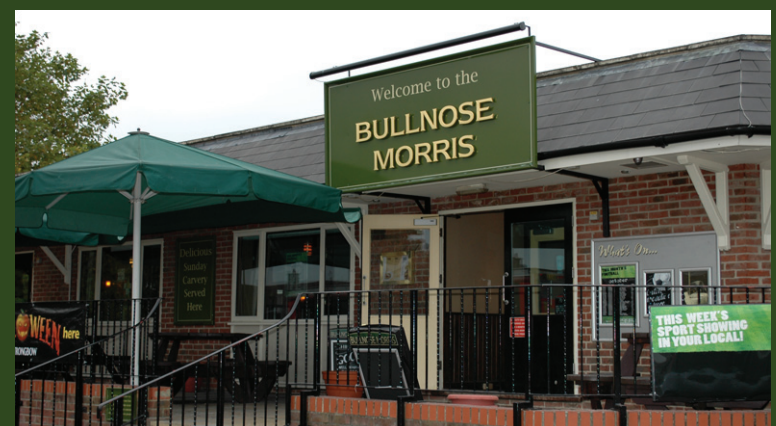
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To make a reservation call us on  
**01865 749888**

[www.oxyoriental.com](http://www.oxyoriental.com)

## THE BULLNOSE MORRIS

**The Bullnose Morris, Blackbird Leys is now under New Management. Gary & Lynne are the new Managers and they look forward to meeting you.**



The Bullnose Morris serves food from 12 noon daily and has a wide variety of dishes to choose from. Lunchtime meal deals are available until 3pm and the great value 2 Meals for £8 offer is available Monday to Friday All Day!

We are able to cater for large parties so why not bring your family and friends for a meal and a drink.

*We are now taking bookings for Christmas Parties.*

**Booking is not always necessary but if you wish to book or for further information please call us on 01865 771430**



# Express Yourself... if you are over 50!

Local charity Leys CDI is asking over-50s on the Leys to get creative this autumn and winter

THANKS TO A grant from the government's Transformation Fund, Leys CDI's Clockhouse Project will be linking up with other local groups through October and November to run taster sessions in crafts and singing for over-50s, in venues all over the estate.

Then from November onwards the Clockhouse Project will be offering local older residents three different ten session activities.

Creative Crafts for Women will run on Thursdays from 1pm to 3 pm in the Blackbird Leys Community Centre, starting on November 26.

Singing for Fun starts at the Clockhouse on Tuesday November 17 from 1.30pm to 3.30pm, and Try Oil Painting starts in the new year.

Crafts and oil painting will cost £2 per session, including all materials and tea, coffee and biscuits. Singing for Fun will be free.

There is some transport help available for people with mobility difficulties who cannot get to the sessions otherwise.



Clockhouse Project Development Worker Sally Meachim said: "Adult Learning supported us with a grant to offer crafts and singing sessions earlier this year, which were really successful.

The crafts participants tried everything from decoupage to silk painting and salt dough sculpture.

The singers had a great time making music together.

It is wonderful that with this Transformation Fund grant we can respond to demand and offer some more sessions, so that people already involved can keep going and - I hope - lots of new people can join in too!

Beginners are very welcome at all the activities - you don't have to have done crafts or oil painting before, or know how to read music for the singing, as the songs

are all taught by listening.

Doing something creative makes you feel really good, and people who've come to these activities in the past say how much they enjoy the company and laughter as well."

For more details, phone Sally on 01865 395908.

## Get Dancing, Get Fit, Get Strictly Tickets

**Shape and tone those muscles with GO Active's new dance classes, and be in to win Strictly Come Dancing tickets!**

If you secretly sashay across your living room, or long to learn salsa, you're in luck. 'Two Left Feet' is a six-week dance programme launching across Oxford this autumn.

Organisers are offering new Zumba, Samba and Bollywood dance classes for just £2 a go. You do not need to be a professional, all you need is a good sense of fun!

Bollywood classes will start at the Fusion Arts Centre on Princes Street, just off Cowley Road, on Monday nights at 5.45pm - 6.45pm with Bhangra Bollywood inspired dancing and music.

Samba will be at the Barcelo Hotel, just off the Wolvercote Roundabout, on Mondays from 7.30-8.30pm with Afro-Brazilian dance rhythms and infectious moves.

Zumba is at Headington Community Centre on Fridays from 6.15pm-7.15pm. Kick-start your weekend with funky salsa-inspired moves in a party atmosphere!

There is no need for a partner at any classes, but there is plenty of scope to bring friends along.

Not only is dancing a great way to have fun, but it's also a great cardiovascular workout, and helps tone up your muscles.

Classes cost just £2 and will run for six weeks. To be in with a chance to win the Strictly tickets, you need to attend four or more of the six sessions and you will be entered into the prize draw.

The tickets are for January 23 at Birmingham NEC when the TV programme goes on tour.

'Two Left Feet' is being organised by GO Active (Get Oxfordshire Active), a project which aims to help adults lead more active lifestyles.

To find out more contact Abbie on [aclare@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:aclare@oxford.gov.uk) or 07833 400899, or check out the GO Active website: [www.getoxfordshireactive.org](http://www.getoxfordshireactive.org)

## Cowley Road store given all-clear

A CONVENIENCE STORE on Cowley Road was given the all-clear to re-open after Oxford City Council Environmental Health Officers were satisfied that the imminent risks to health had been removed.

The Hygiene Emergency Prohibition Order was lifted on J.M. Halal after officers visited the store.

They were satisfied with the work that has been carried out and that the cockroach and mouse infestations have been effectively managed.

Officers closed the premises on Friday 11 September after visiting the store and discovering it was in a poor state.

The inspection was carried out after a complaint from a local resident about problems with black sacks of rubbish and rotting meat being left out on the pavement and causing a smell.

Oxford City Council will continue to monitor the premises and an investigation into how conditions were allowed to become so bad is underway.

## Be enchanted this festive season at the Oxford Christmas Market

THE CITY OF dreaming spires will be wrapped in Christmas scent and festive cheer, as preparations are being made for the first ever annual Oxford Christmas Market.

No need to fly off to Germany to experience the magical delight of a truly traditional Christmas market, instead, this year be enchanted at The Oxford Christmas Market, taking place in the heart of the city at the Oxford Castle from 10-20 December 2009.

It will be the first annual event of its kind in Oxford and visitors will find 30 beautifully decorated stalls selling mostly handmade and fair-trade products. The wide range of market traders includes; Tinklertastic & Fantasia Glass who make fabulous dichoric jewellery and cufflinks, coasters, wall panels, bowls and gifts made from fused glass, Toft Alpacas who offers stylish and unique designs in modern British knitwear, Cuddlezoo who create patchwork quilts, sleeping bags and throws, fleece hoodies, hats, gifts and accessories all handmade in Wales, Skrunch specialise in funky handmade bags and coats co-ordinating a rich blend of vintage and retro textiles. Other stalls include handmade candles and ornaments made from recycled materials, wooden



handcrafted gifts, Christmas decorations and pottery, to name only a small selection. Helen & Douglas House and the Blue Cross have been given a free stall during the event with the proceeds from their sales helping to support their worthy causes.

There will be plenty of Christmas foodie treats to enjoy and take home; hot mulled wine, fresh hot chocolate, gingerbread and German Christmas cakes and of course not forgetting delicious local sausage and mash from Oxford's very own The Big Bang.

Organiser Nicole Rahimi commented; "I really hope we can create an

unforgettable magical and festive event for the people of Oxford this year - and for years to come."

The Oxford Christmas Market really will be an authentic Christmas wonderland with local choirs and brass bands, including Oxford University Brass Band and Opera Anywhere performing Christmas carols throughout the ten days. Children will delight in the Victorian carousel, while even the adults will be swept away by the festive spirit.

For full details please visit: [www.oxfordchristmasmarket.co.uk](http://www.oxfordchristmasmarket.co.uk)

Picture: [www.morguefile.com](http://www.morguefile.com)

## Older People's Day

**Oxford's leisure centres celebrated Older People's Day with a variety of activities including free gym usage, free swimming and free badminton classes.**

OLDER PEOPLE'S DAY in early October celebrated the opportunities, achievements and aspirations of older people and their contribution to our society and economy.

Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre offered free gym usage for the over 50s as well as inductions for new members. There was also free badminton and table tennis and free tea and coffee in the café.

Michael Fisher, fitness instructor at Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre, says "As well as keeping active, being a member of a community is an important part of keeping fit and healthy."

Older People's Day, which has just celebrated its third year is held to coincide with the UN International Day for Older People.

Last year, over 50,000 people took part in 900 local events across the country in the weeks around 1 October.

Councillor Bob Timbs, Board Member for Leisure and Sport, says: "It is important that the over 50s keep fit and active and I am pleased our leisure centres celebrated this special day. I am 56 years old and go to the gym at least twice a week and cycle to work and into town for Council duties.

"This keeps me active and

feeling more energised to keep up with the daily challenge of meeting work commitments and Council responsibilities."

According to research, most age associated health issues can be stemmed or even reversed with regular physical activity. Muscle strength, flexibility, bone density and cardio respiratory fitness such as blood pressure, lung function and cholesterol can all be improved or reversed by regular physical activity.

Physical activity for the older person can mean many different things, muscle training with light weights or tai chi and yoga have been proven to help increase aerobic fitness as well as muscle strength and flexibility.

Studies have shown that aerobic exercise classes for the elderly have resulted in a marked improvement on the psychological wellbeing of the participants as well as the associated physical improvements such as weight loss, mobility and lung function.

Physical activity does not even have to be a structured programme, a simple walk around the park, gardening, carrying the shopping and playing with the grandchildren can all add up to the recommended minimum of 30 minutes a day of activity for adults.





# A Chance to Win Christmas!

Maybe you've had a tough year? Maybe you've worked really hard this year? We could all do with a boost at Christmas. To win all the goodies below, all you have to do is fill in the letter below by the 20th November, and tell us why you would like to Win Christmas. Send your entry to Win Christmas Competition, Leys News, 26 Kingfisher Green, Greater Leys, Oxford OX4 7BX. The best 5 entries, in the opinion of the editor, will be entered into a prize draw.

*The winning family will be photographed for the January edition of Leys News.*



(Your address below)

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Phone:

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Dear Leys News,

I would like to win Christmas because . . .

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Yours sincerely

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## First Prize Includes:

- ❖ A Family ticket to the pantomime to see Jack in the Beanstalk donated by Oxford Playhouse
- ❖ Christmas tree and lights donated by Catalyst Housing Association
- ❖ A £25 voucher to spend on food at the Co-op Supermarket
- ❖ Decorations, crackers and other goodies donated by Templar's Square Wilkinsons store
- ❖ DVDs for all the family
- ❖ An absolutely HUGE box of Thorntons chocolates
- ❖ A £25 voucher to spend in a high street shop, donated by Oxford Citizen's Housing Association
- ❖ A £20 voucher to spend at Frankie and Bennies
- ❖ Oatcakes, biscuits and cracker selection donated by Nairns
- ❖ Light-up yoyos donated by Wicked Vision



## Runners up get:

Two runners up will also win a Christmas goodie bag.

Our great Christmas giveaway would not have been possible without the help of some fabulous friends of Leys News, and we would like to thank the following: **Wilkinsons, Frankie and Benny's, The Co-Operative Society, The Oxford Playhouse, The Oxford Citizen Housing Association, Nairns Oatcakes, Thorntons Chocolates, 2entertain.com, Wicked Vision.**

## CHILDREN'S COLOURING COMPETITION!

THANKS TO THE Oxford Playhouse you have a chance to win a family ticket to see Jack in The Beanstalk

Send your child's picture to Jack in the Beanstalk competition, Leys News, 26 Kingfisher Green, Oxford OX4 7BX by Friday 20th November. Open to children aged 15 years old and under. Pictures will be judged taking into account the child's age.



Name: .....

Age: .....

Phone: .....

Address: .....

### Congratulations to last issue's competition winners:

Shoab Ali, aged nine, of Ladenham Rd won the scooter competition, (look out for the January issue to see a picture of Shoab on his scooter.) Kathleen Jobb of Furlong Close, won the FUNomusica concert tickets and Mrs Cothier of Kestrel Crescent won the Greyhound wordsearch competition.

*Leys News would like to wish all our readers a happy festive season and remember that our next issue will be on your doorstep in January!*



## NEW DENTURES FOR XMAS?



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# Leys Cookery

Leys News aims to bring you inspiring and simple recipes for the whole family to enjoy.  
If you would like to sponsor this page, please email [editor@leysnews.co.uk](mailto:editor@leysnews.co.uk) or 01865 711756

## November's recipe is brought to you by Wall's Cream of Cornish Ice Cream

### Spiced Baked Apples

Servings: 4

Preparation time: 15 minutes

Cooking time: 40 minutes

- 4 large cooking apples
- 55g (2 oz) mixed dried fruit e.g. sour cherries, mango, banana, papaya, dates etc, chopped if large
- 2 teaspoons brown sugar
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- Pinch mixed spice
- 4 tablespoons runny honey or golden syrup
- 25g (1 oz) butter or margarine

Wash, dry and core the cooking apples and place in an ovenproof dish in the centre of an oven until they start to soften. Meanwhile, mix the dried fruit, brown sugar, the cinnamon, mixed spice, runny honey and butter and



stuff the centre of the apples with the mixture. Return to the oven and bake for 30-40 minutes. Serve with Wall's Ice Cream for a delicious winter treat.

### Chocolate brownie pie

By Wendy Byrne from Forget-me-Not Way, Greater Leys, Oxford.

1. Line a 9" flan dish with short-crust pastry.
2. Mix together 7 fl oz golden syrup with a pinch of salt and 6 oz soft brown sugar in a small saucepan. Bring slowly to the boil, stirring until the sugar has dissolved. Remove from heat.
3. Stir in 4 oz plain chocolate, broken into squares, and 2 oz unsalted butter. Stir until smooth, then leave to cool.
4. Beat 3 eggs and add to chocolate mixture, stirring well. Stir in 1 tsp vanilla essence and 2½ oz chopped nuts. Pour into pastry case.
5. Bake for 50 minutes in an oven pre-heated to Gas Mark 4. Remove pie from oven, sprinkle with 1 oz plain chocolate chips and return to oven for 5 more minutes.
6. Serve hot or cold with whipped cream.

We had a great response to our new cookery section in Leys News, and have chosen two recipes to feature in this issue. Both of the creative cooks in question will receive a Passion for Puddings pack from our friends at Carnation.

**Please keep your recipes coming!**

Send them to [editor@leysnews.co.uk](mailto:editor@leysnews.co.uk) and put cookery in the subject box.

### Dal

By Nirmala Devi of Dunnock Way, Greater Leys, Oxford

**Pulses and Beans are a natural source of protein, high in fibre and used extensively in Asian cooking, especially by vegetarians. This recipes serves two to four people.**

#### Ingredients for Dal:

- 1 Cup of Dal (URID YELLOW)
- 4 to 8 Cups of boiling water

#### Ingredients for Cooked Masala:

- 5 to 10 Table spoons Cooking oil
- 1 or 2 Onions
- 1 or 2 Cloves of garlic chopped finely (Fresh)
- 1 or 2 Teaspoons of Ginger chopped finely (Fresh)
- Tin of Tomatoes (Chopped) best in the food processor
- 1 Teaspoon Salt
- 1 Teaspoon Huldi or Turmeric
- 1 Teaspoon of Gram Masala
- 3 or 4 Fresh Coriander stripes
- Only select ONE of your choose of species:
  - 2 - 4 Green chillies,
  - 1 Teaspoon Red Ground,
  - 1 Teaspoon Black pepper

- 1 LARGE COOKING POT for the Dal
- 1 SMALL COOKING POT for the Masala
- 1 ladle
- 1 Teaspoon
- 1 Table spoon

#### LARGE COOKING POT

First soak the dal in warm water or over night or before the preparation. dal should be washed in clean water 2/3 times water drain the water in a sieve Boil the water and add the dal and cook on LOW/MEDUIM heat for 30 - 40 minutes. Check the dal is soft to eat and not too runny.

#### SMALL COOKING POT

Whilst the dal is cooking. Heat the small pot on low heat and add cooking oil for 1/2 minutes. Take finely chopped onions, and 1 / 2 Cloves of garlic (Fresh) 1 / 2 Teaspoons of Ginger( Fresh) and add to the cooking pot of oil, then fry until golden brown. Put all the ingredients (2) in the food processor, blend until paste, now add to the dal and cook for further (5) minutes. When cooked taste soft and mixed.

OPTIONAL: You may try making the Masala first and then add DAL and add Water after. Serve with boiled rice or naan bread and salad.

# Need help giving up smoking?



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**Oxfordshire Smoking Advice Service**  
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Thanks to Oxford Brookes University for sponsoring this page. If you are interested in studying at Oxford Brookes please contact Marie Jones on 01865 484866 or marie.jones@brookes.ac.uk

# Hold the Front Page!

Leys News Editor Sarah Edwards visited students at Abingdon and Witney College to talk about community journalism, and give them an insight into how newspapers work.



The ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) students are tutored by Leys News Community Journalist Katie Chester who is also the first winner of our new Leys News Community Journalism Award. The award for this quarter is generously sponsored by Pizza Express, Oxford and has been introduced to reward and encourage the team of community journalists who provide content and ideas for the paper.

## Volunteering at the Museum of Oxford

THE MUSEUM OF OXFORD is looking for volunteers to support the Museum's exciting autumn and winter programme.

Staff are setting up a dedicated team of front-of-house volunteers who will help visitors to the galleries, exhibitions and events.

The team will also help with preparing the museum for opening and closing and providing general information to visitors.

Councillor Bob Price, Leader of Oxford City Council, says; "The contribution of our volunteers is crucial to maintain the level of services and range of activities offered by the museum, with its very limited budget.

"We are looking for people with an interest in the museum and in helping to project its work to the public.

"The role is very important as the front of house volunteers provide the first and often lasting impression to visitors."

If people are interested in becoming a volunteer then they will need to fill out an application form, have an informal interview and CRB checks and references.

Volunteers will go through induction training before they start work in the museum.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer contact the Museum on 01865 252761 or email museum@oxford.gov.uk. Alternatively you can pop into the Museum and pick up a form.

The Museum of Oxford is located in Oxford's historic Town Hall. For more information about the Museum and exhibitions call the Museum on 01865 252761 or email museum@oxford.gov.uk

## Oxford Brookes stays on top

OXFORD BROOKES has been named the UK's best post-1992 university for the ninth year running in The Sunday Times' University Guide.

The guide is one of the most highly regarded league tables and looks at the performance of universities across the UK in fields like teaching, research, student satisfaction, degree classification and graduate employment prospects.

The Sunday Times says of Brookes, which jumped five places to make a top 50 position: "At the heart of Brookes' success is the excellent teaching on offer. A Russell Group-equalling 24 subjects were rated excellent."

It continues: "More than three-quarters of all research is rated as internationally recognised, with history (25%), history of art, computer science, art and design and music (all 15%) having the most world-leading research submissions."

Student satisfaction remains extremely high, having risen to 76.9%.

In addition, two-thirds of students gain firsts or 2.1s.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Janet Beer said: "We can all be absolutely delighted that Oxford Brookes has maintained its position as the UK's leading modern university for yet another year.

"The quality of our teaching in particular puts us in a very strong position, as does our growing research strength. Oxford Brookes continues to provide students with a superb experience and this is reflected in our high levels of student

satisfaction, which have risen yet again."

### Council rejects plans

Oxford City Councillors have rejected the proposed £132 million redevelopment of Oxford Brookes' Headington Campus.

At a full meeting of the Council, they voted not to support the university's plans for new library and teaching spaces.

A library, social learning spaces, lecture theatres and computer suites together with the Students' Union and student support services were earmarked for the planned five-storey building.

Paul Large, Acting Registrar at Oxford Brookes University, said: "This is an important planning application for the future of Oxford Brookes and we are disappointed the city council has rejected our plans at this time.

"These are comprehensive and considered proposals, the result of much dialogue, consultation and debate since 2005. We listened to residents' concerns carefully and made changes to the original plans based on the feedback.

"We will now take away the feedback that has arisen from the council's decision and consider our next course of action.

"Improvements to our teaching and learning space are of vital importance to the future of the university. Oxford Brookes is a major national and international institution and makes an enormous contribution to the city - it is very important that our facilities match our reputation as a leading university."

### Global Entrepreneurship Week

Brookes will be offering practical support for companies and individuals in challenging times during Global Entrepreneurship Week, with specific event details available soon on the Oxford Brookes website.

In addition the university will be presenting details of the Economic Challenge Investment Fund (ECIF), established by the Higher Education Funding Council to help the HE sector address some of the current economic challenges. The funding aims to grant these groups access to training, professional development and other support that serves their immediate needs.

ECIF support: Oxford Brookes is offering a short course on Trading in Difficult Times. The programme covers all aspects of surviving in business in a recessionary climate. Business for Starters is a collaborative initiative designed to help individuals in the early years of their new business ventures. Both programmes are offered at greatly reduced rates. Further details of courses please contact +44 (0)1865 485858 or email business@brookes.ac.uk

Careers Centre: ECIF funding has been made available until October 2010 to extend services to all unemployed graduates (from any year and any university) residing in Oxfordshire. Further details of services please contact +44 (0)1865 484670 or email careers@brookes.ac.uk

## Class of '99 survey reveals success for students

Students who graduated from Oxford Brookes University ten years ago have had their lives scrutinised in a survey to find out what happened next. More than 90 per cent of the students who took part are now in full time work, and more than a quarter of them are working in Oxfordshire.

This survey was undertaken by Oxford Brookes with the aim of evaluating the effects of the 'university experience' on graduates. The aim was to collect information that would make the University's courses and student experience more relevant to graduates' future professional needs. The 1999 cohort was chosen because the ten year gap since graduation was seen as a good time to follow them up.

The majority of respondents are now in their 30s, and the largest proportion of respondents had been studying a business-related course when they graduated in 1999 (43 respondents in total). Twenty-three respondents had taken further courses at Oxford Brookes.

Almost two thirds of those who had undertaken further study did so to improve their career options (64%). Sixty-two per cent did so to develop a more specialist set of skills or knowledge whilst 58% did so to develop a broader range of skills or knowledge.

Nine out of ten respondents were in some form of employment at the time of the survey (91%). This included 81% who were in full-time employment and 8% who were working part-time.

Of those currently in work, over half of respondents said that the qualification they acquired in 1999 was an essential requirement for their current job in terms of its level. A further 28% said that the subject that they had studied was a requirement of their job.

Using a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 was 'not at all' and 5 was 'to a great extent', respondents were asked to assess the extent to which a number of skills were developed during their time at Oxford Brookes, and results have shown that the university was most successful at developing respondents' levels of critical thinking, subject knowledge, abilities to work independently and written communications skills.

Overall, 93% of respondents agreed that they were satisfied with the quality of the course they had graduated from in 1999, and ninety-two percent agreed that overall they were satisfied with their experience as a student at Oxford Brookes.

Based on their experiences, 98% of respondents would recommend Oxford Brookes to prospective students.

Respondents were asked about the most useful aspects of their time at Oxford Brookes. The development of life skills (communication, independence and time management) and career skills (such as presentation, project writing and analytical skills) was seen as the most useful aspect to come out of their time at the University (33% of respondents). This was followed by networking opportunities and mixing with other students (21%), increasing their subject knowledge (17%) and the quality of teaching (16%).

In conclusion, most of the graduates in the survey are in employment ten years down the line, many working abroad. Most are in jobs that relate to the subject they studied although only a third felt that their course at Oxford Brookes had prepared them completely for their current job. Two thirds have undertaken further study to improve their career prospects.

The University was seen as strong in providing graduates with academic skills such as critical thinking and subject knowledge and general skills such as working independently.

Overall, the graduates were very positive about their time at Oxford Brookes and almost all would recommend the University to prospective students. The skills they learned and the networking opportunities they gained were seen as the best thing about being at Brookes whilst they would have preferred more advice on issues such as module selection and careers, and better facilities.



# Whats on at The Leys Children's Centre - November/December 09

61-63 Cuddesdon Way, Blackbird Leys OX4 6SB

\*childcare available

EVERYONE WELCOME!

All courses are FREE – there may be a small charge for materials

|           | Morning                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Afternoon                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday    | <b>Cuddesdon Corner</b><br>01865 773263<br>(Linked with Orchard Meadow School 01865 778609) |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Stay and Play for Babies, dads, mums &amp; carers</b><br>NEW TIME: 1.00 pm– 3.00pm<br>Contact Mikko Enticknap 01865 773263<br><b>The Listening Centre</b><br>12.30pm–9.00pm Phone 01865 794794                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|           | <b>Orchard Meadow</b>                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Creative Group* for parents</b> 12.20pm–2.00pm<br>(£1.50 contribution for materials)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|           | <b>Pegasus</b><br>01865 777175                                                              | <b>Salsa</b><br>9.30am–10.30am                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|           | <b>Windale</b><br>01865 777796                                                              | <b>Stay and Play</b> 9.30am–11.00am<br>contact Nicky Solomon 01865 777796                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Tuesday   | <b>Cuddesdon Corner</b>                                                                     | <b>PEEP for 1s</b><br>9.30am–10.30am<br>Call 01865 395145                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <br><b>Stay and Play with lunch</b> (small fee)<br>11.00am–2.00pm<br><b>The Listening Centre</b> 5.00pm–9.00pm<br><b>Parent-talk</b> 7.30pm–9.30pm<br>contact Rosie Hill 01865 875482                                                                                                                             |
|           | <b>Leys Health Centre</b>                                                                   | <b>Baby Massage for babies from 8 weeks old</b><br>1.00pm–2.00pm<br>Contact Linda Picton 01865 788688<br>or Monika Celebi 07879674425<br><b>NEW</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Wednesday | <b>Cuddesdon Corner</b>                                                                     | <b>Indian Head Massage*</b> starting 25 November<br>9.30am–11.30am<br>Contact Anne Wells 01865 779615<br><br><b>Family Learning ESOL group</b><br>9.30am–11.30am<br>Contact Anne Wells 01865 779615                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Midwife Clinic</b><br>for post natal and baby checks, support and advice<br>12.30pm– 2.30pm<br>drop-in or phone 01865 221696 for an appointment<br><b>Teenage &amp; Pregnant (TAP1)</b><br>1.00pm–3.00pm<br>Contact 01865 773263<br><br><b>Strengthening Families</b><br>Starting 4 November<br>5.00pm–6.00pm<br>Contact Debi Redding 01865 876624<br><b>The Listening Centre</b><br>5.00pm–9.00pm |
|           | <b>Orchard Meadow</b>                                                                       | <b>Assertiveness*</b> 9.15am–10.45am<br>Contact Anne Wells 01865 779615<br><b>Cooking and Coffee</b><br>Contact Carole Pether 01865 778609                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>PEEP Baby Group</b><br>1.30pm–2.30pm<br>Call 01865 395145                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|           | <b>Pegasus</b>                                                                              | <b>Stay and Play</b> 9.00am–11.30am                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Stay and Play</b> 12.45pm–3.00pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|           | <b>Windale</b>                                                                              | <b>Sewing Circle*</b> starting 4 November<br>9.00am–11.00am<br>contact Nicky Solomon 01865 777796<br><b>NEW</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Thursday  | <b>Cuddesdon Corner</b>                                                                     | <br><b>Looking After Ourselves*</b> starting 19 November<br>9.30am–11.30am<br>contact Conroy Harris 0777 540 7524<br><b>NEW</b><br><b>Agnes Smith Advice Centre</b><br>(for advice on benefits, money advice and debt)<br>10.00am–1.00pm.<br>Contact Jackie Knight 01865 770206 | <b>Aromatherapy*</b> ( follow-on course)<br>Starting 5 November 1.00pm–2.30pm<br>Contact Anne Wells 01865 779615<br><br><b>The Listening Centre</b><br>5.00pm– 9.00pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|           | <b>Windale</b>                                                                              | <b>PEEP for 1s</b><br>9.30am–10.30am Call 01865 395145                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Creative Group*</b> 1.30pm–2.45pm<br>contact Nicky Solomon 01865 777796<br>(small fee for materials)<br><b>NEW</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Friday    | <b>Cuddesdon Corner</b>                                                                     | <b>The Baby Café</b> (supporting breastfeeding)<br>10.30am–12.30pm<br>Contact Carole Roberts 01865 788688                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Stay &amp; Play with lunch</b> (small fee)<br>11.00am – 2.00pm<br><b>Job Centre Plus</b> 12.30pm–3.00pm<br>Contact Mikko Enticknap 01865 773263                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|           | <b>Pegasus</b>                                                                              | <b>Computing Course*</b> 9.15am–11.15am<br>contact Rachel Walding 01865 777175                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Tatty Bumpkin</b> 2.00pm– 2.45pm<br>contact Rachel Walding 01865 777175                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Saturday  | <b>Windale</b>                                                                              | <b>Parents Coffee Morning</b> 9.00am–11.00am                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>PEEP groups running at other venues</b><br>(Contact 01865 395145 for more information)<br><b>PEEP for babies:</b> Monday, 9.30–10.30am, Dovecote.<br><b>PEEP for 2s:</b> Monday, 1.30–2.30pm, Holy Family Church.<br><b>PEEP for 2s:</b> Wednesday, 9.30–10.30am, Dovecote.<br><b>PEEP for babies:</b> 1.30–2.30pm, Leys Health Centre.                                                            |
|           | <b>Cuddesdon Corner</b>                                                                     | <b>Dad's Zone</b> 10.00am–1.30pm<br>Contact Conroy Harris 0777 5407524<br><b>Maluchy – Little Ones</b> 9.30am–10.30am<br>For information contact: 07951 263191 (English)<br>or 07874 187704 (Polish)                                                                                                                                                               | <b>NEW COURSE:</b><br><b>Family Links</b><br>at St John Fisher School<br>Starting on Thursday,<br>5 November,<br>9.15am–11.15am<br>Contact Debbie Scrivener 01865 773263<br><br><b>COMING SOON:</b><br><b>Make-up course</b>                                                                                                                                                                          |



# Cuddesdon Corner: New Stay and Play Launched



IT WAS SMILES all the way at the Cuddesdon Corner Children's Centre for the launch of the new Stay and Play sessions. Nearly 40 smiling babies from The Leys, and their parents and grandparents also entered a competition to let people know what makes their baby smile.

Jenny Martin, Head of The Leys

Children's Centre said: "Our new Stay and Play sessions are a great opportunity to talk together about things babies enjoy doing.

Sometimes if mothers or fathers are looking after a baby or young child for an extended period on their own, it can be hard to think of things to do together.

There are books you can read

about babies, but we asked parents on The Leys to tell us what made their babies smile. We were overwhelmed with the lovely, funny, things people told us."

A total of eight prizes were awarded, Jenny added: "Most people said their baby smiles when they give attention by smiling or waving or tickling or

By Katie Chester

singing or doing rhymes."

One of the prize winners said: "breastfeeding makes my baby smile. He has a drink. He stops and looks at me and smiles and then he has some more to drink. We both really enjoy it!"

Jenny added: "We were delighted by the range of things people said and we noticed how easily babies smiled for the camera. It seems that young children on The Leys are very much loved and have parents and extended families who really know their babies well. You used to hear the comment that 'babies are boring'. This event shows how exciting and interesting and varied babies really are."

The Leys Children's Centre has a useful pack which contains some additional information for parents.

It's called Talk with your Baby and it follows on from a national campaign which aimed to limit the amount of TV babies and young children watch.

The pack also contains some top tips and advice for parents, as well as information about activities and events for families.

*The Baby Stay and Play sessions are now from 1pm-3pm on Mondays.*

## Motherhood – a roller coaster ride

**Are you enjoying the ride or hanging on for dear life? Either way, you're invited to an evening full of humour and honesty to be held at the Kassam Stadium on 3rd December.**

The evening is being organised by Care For the Family – a national charity committed to strengthening family life and helping those who are hurting due to family breakdown. It will be hosted by mother and speaker Dianne Parsons and her guests Marion White and Cathy Madavan. They will be speaking about the importance of continually loving our children, no matter what, about relationships, hopes and fears for the future and some of the funny situations we find ourselves in as a mum.

You'll hear how to be the mum your kids really need, including:

- great ideas for making your family life even better
- which battles you should fight and – which you should avoid
- how you can set boundaries – and make sure they work
- why you've got nothing to prove
- how to talk to your kids – and how to interpret their grunts!
- this not just you – you are not alone!

*Tickets for the event cost £6, or £5 if you buy four or more, and are available from Care for the Family on (029) 2081 0800 or [www.careforthefamily.org.uk/mum](http://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/mum) Tickets must be bought in advance. The event takes place on Thursday 3rd December at the Kassam Stadium Conference Centre from 7.30 to 10pm.*

## Round up from Cuddesdon Corner

### WIN £30 worth of Shopping Vouchers !

Between now and December 2009 any new visitor to Cuddesdon Corner who completes a registration form will be entered into a monthly prize draw to win £30 worth of shopping vouchers.

Annette Powell dropped in ten days after baby Elijah was born in August, completed a registration form and won the prize! She says, "It's great I've won the prize. This will help me a lot with the cost of the new baby's nappies and things like that. Since I've been attending Cuddesdon Corner, I've had a lot of support, met new people, parents of babies and found the staff really friendly"

For your chance to win just drop in at Stay and Play on Tuesday or Friday from 11am-2pm, or at Baby Stay and Play on Monday from 1-3pm, or the Baby Cafe on Friday morning from 10am-12 noon, and remember to fill in a registration form!

### New Baby Massage Classes

Baby massage classes are now being held at the Leys Health Centre on Tuesday afternoons. The classes are suitable for babies from six weeks to six months of age and the six week course is free. For more information call Linda Picton on 788688 at the Leys Health Centre.

### New Baby Stay and Play sessions

Cuddesdon Corner has launched a new drop in stay and Play session specifically for babies and their parents. The session is on Mondays from 1pm-3pm.

### Looking for work?

Details of new jobs are put up on three different notice boards by Leys Children's Centre workers / volunteers every week. There are also people who can help you to find more jobs on the Job Centre Plus website in the Centres. Notice boards and people who can help are at:

- Cuddesdon Corner: ask for Trudi
- Windale School: ask for Jo
- Pegasus School: ask for Jane

### Baby signing classes

New baby signing classes for babies from six to eighteen months are due to begin at the Children's Centre from January. Contact Valerie O'Malley or Anne Wells for more details on 779615

## INTERVIEW: Lisa Dobraszczyk, speech and language therapist

**Lisa is a speech and language therapist who has a drop in session at Cuddesdon Corner Children's centre twice a month. Katie Chester met up with her to find out how she can help, and to get some tips on her daughter's speech development.**

### As a speech and language therapist, what does your job involve and how can you help parents and their children?

I visit all the primary schools on the Leys as well as John Fisher, Imagine Nursery and the Children's Centre at Cuddesdon Corner. I'm here to help parents with any concerns or worries they may have about their children's language development, for example bringing up bi-lingual children, stammering or stuttering, pronunciation of sounds, children not starting to talk, and really anything at all that parents have questions about. Sometimes a parent feeling anxious can affect their child's speech development so if you're worried about anything at all it's worth talking to me. I can offer leaflets and information, speech therapy, hearing tests and referral to other specialists.

Another strand to my work is that I'm currently involved in setting up 'spiral groups' in the local schools to help all children with their speech and language development . These will be starting soon, and we will also be starting a baby signing class at the Children's Centre in the new year, aimed at babies from six to eighteen months.

### At what age should my child be able to talk?

As a rough guide, babies will start babbling and making noises from six months and first words start to appear at around a year. From eighteen months to two years the vocabulary expands, and by two years children are beginning to join words together to make simple phrases such as 'my cup', 'mummy's shoe'. At this stage they often over-generalise, for example they might say 'woof woof' to refer

to not only dogs, but to all animals; and 'mummy' to refer to anyone who looks after them. The phrases gradually become longer and by two and a half children are usually learning 'concept words' such as 'big', 'little', 'empty', 'in', 'on'.

### How can I tell if my child's language development is normal? My niece is only one month older than my daughter but already has a large vocabulary while my daughter is still only saying one or two words. Is she behind?

There's such a wide range of 'normal' that it's not always helpful to compare different children. I would be looking to see if your daughter is developing the skills which form the foundation for talking, such as listening, and seeming to understand; trying to communicate with facial expressions and gestures; and developing play skills. It's also true that children seem to focus on developing one skill at a time so children who are physically forward and start walking earlier tend to be later with their speech, and vice versa. Children develop in spurts as well, so there might be a period of rapid development and then a time when nothing much seems to be happening. If parents are concerned I sometimes suggest that they keep a list on the fridge of all the words they hear their child saying – you might find you're surprised by how many they know. And if you do have any worries, speak to your health visitor or come and speak to me.

### What are your top tips for helping children to learn to talk?

With little ones, it's really important to get down to their

level and play with them, so that they can see your facial expressions and the movement of your mouth and lips. Talk to them about what you're doing during the day – just chat about your normal daily activities. Also it's important to keep your language simple and at the child's level, so if your child is just using single words, then keep your language down to single words too. You don't need to do this constantly, but just from time to time. Make sure you give your child the time to respond, so pause every so often and give them a chance to reply. When you introduce new words, repeat them several times.

### At what age should I start talking to my child?

During pregnancy! It's an amazing fact that a new born baby will recognise its mother's voice as soon as it's born, and be able to distinguish her voice from all others. It's important to think of your new born baby as a little person who wants to interact with you. The baby will only learn to talk by being talked to, so it's never too early to start. You can copy the noises your baby makes, let them see your face, and read books together.

### What's the point of reading books to a new born baby? They won't understand!

Books are great for giving the baby the chance to hear language. It helps develop listening and concentration skills as they are focusing on something with an adult. Young babies love simple picture books. You don't need to read all the words – you can just use one word for each picture, or you can make up your own story. Getting interested in books will

also help with the child's future school life and learning to read and write.

### Do you have any tips for bilingual families?

I would always encourage people to use their mother tongue at home. Children are very good at picking up a second or third language but they need to have a good foundation by learning their first language really well.

Sometimes parents who don't use English at home worry about what will happen when their child starts school, but up to the age of seven or eight, children generally have no problem at all learning another language at school and will not be left behind.

### What about families where the parents speak different languages from each other?

It's really up to the family whether they want the child to learn both languages. I think there are lots of advantages to being bilingual and children have an amazing capacity to process language and sort it all out. In mixed-language families I would recommend that each parent uses their own mother tongue with the child.

*If you would like to speak to Lisa she is available at Cuddesdon Corner on the second Tuesday of each month from 12-1pm. She will be there on the 10th and 24th November and the 8th December. No appointment is needed. If your child is at primary school you can also see her there.*

*For more information about the baby signing group starting in January, contact Anne Wells or Valery O'Malley at the Children's Centre on 779615.*



## Green Fingers

By Stuart Mabbutt

### Unusual Vegetables

Just as I was struggling for inspiration for the next subject to cover in these articles, I've just had one of those "Aha" moments!

Just finished talking to a fellow gardener that has lost her enthusiasm for vegetable gardening as she has cultivating the same crops year in, year out, for the last 2 decades.

"Try growing some unusual vegetables you've never grown before" was my response, "Tried em all" she responded with a deep murmuring of resignation in her voice.

Sure enough, I did find some she'd never thought of, and off she went, happy once more.

We could all try these old vegetables, not just to boost our enthusiasm, but to put more variety on our dinner plates and in our diet.



I suggested Corn Salad or Lamb Lettuce, which are harvested between October and February, when home grown salad is hard to come by. Sown in September, it will grow freely in most soils. When harvesting, you remove only a few leaves from each plant at a time, as they don't like being stripped naked, who would in winter! New leaves will regenerate shortly after, allowing you to pick again. In the kitchen you can use the leaves just as you would traditional lettuce leaves and enjoy their distinctly bitter taste.

Good King Henry or Poor Man's Asparagus as I have heard it called is another good cropper, as I have mentioned in these articles a number of years ago. It is only an unusual vegetable because fashions in gardening and cooking have altered over the years. Even so, this is a vegetable that should be brought back in my opinion.

It comes up each year, so once you have planted it initially, you've got it for life. It grows to 2 ½ feet tall and really needs a sunny site and extremely fertile soil.

The seeds are initially sown in April or May, but don't expect a huge harvest in the first season. Like Rhubarb, it needs a year to settle in before it takes off and rewards you with a scrumptious harvest. When you do pick, again, only pick a few leaves from each plant and then cook as you would traditional spinach.



In the Autumn, cut down all the foliage to 3 inches above ground level and spread a six inch layer of rotted leaves over the top. The following April/May and June, you can harvest the new shoots as you would Asparagus, and cook them likewise. From July onwards, allow the shoots to mature into leaves and then continue cooking as you would Spinach until you cut them down again in the Autumn.

How can these 2 vegetables fail to inspire anyone into a new found horticultural vigour?

Happy Gardening.

### Fitness and Fun Netball sessions

**If you played netball at school but have not been near a net or a ball since, then it's time to dust off your trainers and get back into shape!**

This autumn Fitness and Fun Netball sessions for ladies are on every Tuesday night at The Oxford School, and are a great way of getting fit, having fun and meeting new friends.

The sessions run from 8pm until 9.30pm and Unique Netball Club will be opening their doors to everyone who wants to have a go at netball, for the very first time or for the first time in a long time!

Training sessions are just £2 and will consist of a warm-up, some basic skills and drills coaching, and lots of games to get your heart rate up and your body moving!

All fitness levels and experience are welcome. Unique are a very friendly and relaxed group and are looking forward to welcoming new players.

For more information contact Abbie on 07833 400899 or [aclare@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:aclare@oxford.gov.uk)

### Fun at the "seaside"

BY JEAN DENHAM

A 50s/60s style "day at the seaside" was recreated in Potters Court on Wednesday September.

Catalyst Housing Association tenants from Potters Court, Robin Place, Oxford and London gathered together to enjoy this fun afternoon.

Entertainer Mike Abbott started the afternoon with a rendition of "We do like to be beside the seaside", followed by many songs from the 50s and 60s. The audience were happy to sing along.

Fish and chips, tea, coffee and juices were served in the interval by a team of staff from Catalyst, who were on hand all afternoon to ensure that the event ran well and that everyone had a good time.

There was then another sing-along with Mike. This was followed by a very entertaining "Punch and Judy" show, and the raffle brought the afternoon to a close.

The afternoon was funded with money raised by the Potters Court Social Group who raised £250, and Catalyst matched this with another £250.00.

Thanks to the staff from Catalyst - Judy Harvey, Nicola Franks, Sasha East, Martha Unia, Leanne Skipper and their colleagues from London for all their help and support on the day.

### A day of dance for all the family

**Families can take part in a special day of dance on 1st November at Oxford Town Hall.**

Oxford's Family Dance Experience is a special event where adults and young people can learn, share and dance together.

Expert dance teachers will be on hand to show participants some moves to get you dancing in a range of styles - including opportunities for dads and sons and mums and daughters to dance together. There will also be performances by two of Oxford's most popular dance companies, Crossover Intergenerational Dance Company and Hip Hop dance troupe Messy Jam.

The event takes place from 10am until 3pm and families can take part in the whole day, which consists of several workshops and the performances or just part of it.

To book tickets contact Pegasus Theatre Box Office on 08165 792209 or visit [www.pegasustheatre.org.uk](http://www.pegasustheatre.org.uk)

Tickets per parent/carer and young person pair:

- Whole day (2 workshops plus performance): £15 (full), £10 (conc)
- 1 workshop plus performance: £8 full, £5 (conc)
- 1 workshop: £6, £4 (conc)
- Performance only (per person): £3, £2 (conc)

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Many thanks to DW Contractors for sponsoring this page.



# A fun day out at the Fair



Visitors flocked to the annual Leys Fair for a day of fun in the sun. Community groups and visitors enjoyed some fabulous late summer weather when they converged on the Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre. Leys Fair is an important date in the community calendar and gets better each year. Displays, dancing, music and traditional food were all enjoyed by visitors.

## EXPRESS YOURSELF!



**Crafts, Oil Painting and Singing for over-50s on the Leys**  
Get creative and have fun this winter!  
Try something new in our friendly groups

### Singing for Fun

Learn some great songs and enjoy singing together. Singing makes you feel good and has many health benefits. FREE! Come to any session - or all of them. Tuesdays 1.30 to 3.30 pm, Clockhouse Community Centre, Long Ground, Greater Leys, 10 sessions starting 17 November.

### Try Oil Painting

Beginners especially welcome to these 10 sessions starting January 2009. £2 per session includes all materials and tea/coffee/biscuits. YOU NEED TO BOOK A PLACE (tel: 01865 395908 for more details).

### Creative Crafts for Women

Try a wide variety of different techniques with the help of encouraging tutors, and take home what you make.

Thursdays 1-3 pm, Art Room, Blackbird Leys Community Centre, 10 sessions starting 26 November. £2 a session including tea/coffee/biscuits.

**Some transport help available for local residents with mobility difficulties who cannot get to the sessions otherwise.**

**Contact Sally Meachim, Clockhouse Project (Leys CDI) for more details:**

tel: 01865 395908

or [clockhousecdi@btconnect.com](mailto:clockhousecdi@btconnect.com)



**Picture by Mario Balsamo.** The folks of Overmead Green, Blackbird Leys, had something to look up to as a hot-air balloon supplied by "Rides" soared low over the flats providing a colourful treat for locals as they strolled off their Sunday lunches. Locals cheered as the balloon seemingly came in to land on the roof of a block of flats in Birchfield Close.



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# What's on

A quick guide to what's available in the Leys. If you have a service or event you'd like to include in What's On, please ring 01865 711756.

## Mind Events

The mental health organisation Oxfordshire Mind is embarking on a major fundraising campaign, and has a number of activities and events planned over the next few months including parachute jumps, treks to far flung nations and tandem sky dives and sponsored swims.

Nicky Clargo from Mind said: "Funds raised for Oxfordshire Mind will help provide vital services for people who are experiencing mental and emotional health problems such as anxiety, bereavement, depression, life crisis, loneliness, recovery from breakdowns, panic attacks, post-natal depression, stress and schizophrenia."

She added: "Last year there were over 36,000 visits to Mind's Community Resource Projects in Oxfordshire and every year Oxfordshire Mind aims to raise over £30,000 to sustain and develop its services. We rely on donations and support from the public to continue our work."

On Friday, November 6 at The Taylor Institution, St Giles in Oxford, there is a chance to see A Beautiful Mind: thoughts on images of mental illness and film with acclaimed journalist, novelist and broadcaster Francine Stock. Admission is £5 on the door, and all proceeds go to Oxfordshire Mind.

Colette Graham and Nathan James are embarking on a 12,000 ft jump out of an aeroplane in aid of Oxfordshire Mind. Whilst exiting the plane they will accelerate to 120 mph, covering a thousand feet in five seconds! At 5,000 ft their instructors will deploy parachutes and will hopefully return them both safely to earth some four minutes later. Colette and Nathan both work for Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust (OBMH) which provides specialist mental health services to people in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire and the surrounding counties, and highly specialist services to patients from across the UK. One in four people are affected by mental illness and about two in every thousand people need specialist care for serious conditions, such as severe anxiety or depression, eating disorders or addictions. OBMH has a number of bases across both counties, which provide day care, in-patient services, and services in the community.

For full details of all activities and events planned, please email [nicky.clargo@oxfordshire-mind.org.uk](mailto:nicky.clargo@oxfordshire-mind.org.uk) or telephone 01865 263733.

## CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

**Leys Children's Centre**  
see ad on page 14

**Baby Cafe**  
Cuddesdon Corner Family Centre, Fridays, 10.30am to 12.30pm.  
☎ Carole Roberts, 788688  
[www.thebabycafe.org](http://www.thebabycafe.org)

**Brownies**  
Thursdays, Holy Family Church Hall.  
☎ Gill Manning, 770959

**Dovecote**  
Afterschool Club: Mondays  
Saturday Club: restarts Saturday 3 October, 10am-1pm. For 5 - 12 year olds. £2.50 per child per session. ☎ 01865 712299

**Leys Kiddie Club**  
In the Dovecote Family Drop-in Room, Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays, 9.30am to 2.30pm. £1. Price includes a hot drink and a soft drink for children.  
☎ Ruth Brown, 07985 637487

**Home-Start**  
A free home visiting service for families who have at least one child under five, aimed at supporting you through a difficult time. Confidential service. ☎ 01865 779991.

**The Barn Youth Project**  
Session for ages 7-12 is on Mondays 5.30-7.30pm. Wednesdays is for young people aged 13-20, & runs from 7pm-9pm.

**Cheerleading for girls aged 6 & over**  
Leisure Centre on Pegasus Road. Tuesdays 4.30pm. 50p a session. Run by the Leys Youth Programme.  
☎ Matt & Katie Gamble, 01865 427075

**Oxford Blackbirds Football Club - Training sessions:**  
Tuesday evenings for the under 8s, 12s, 13s, 15s and 16s. On Wednesdays it's the under 9's, 10's, 14's.  
☎ John Clifton, 01865 308934 or 07845315620.

**5-a-side football for girls**  
Leisure Centre on Fridays. 5-6pm for years 3-6. 6-7pm for years 7 upwards. 50p a session. Run by the Leys Youth Programme. ☎ Matt and Katie Gamble, 01865 427075

**5-a-side football for boys**  
Leisure Centre on Fridays. 4-5pm for school years 3 to 6. 5-6pm for years 7 to 9. 6-7pm for years 10 and 11. 50p a session. ☎ Matt and Katie Gamble, 01865 427075.

**The Greater Leys Youth Football Club**  
☎ Nick, 07862236540

**Blackbird Leys Youth Centre**  
Blackbird Leys Road. Variety of activities & advice for young people. ☎ 772886.

**The PEEP programme**  
offers parents support in helping children learn and develop. Ring 01865 395145 to find the PEEP centre nearest to you.

**Starlight Black Child Mixed Heritage Group** provides a safe forum to explore issues

of race and racism with other parents and occasional guest speakers, while the children have fun playing and getting to know each other.  
☎ 01865 776691

**35th Oxford Scout Group**  
☎ Duncan Bowler, 0776 6293353

**Basketball club**  
Fridays, 7-8pm, Run by the Leys Youth Programme.  
☎ Matt and Katie Gamble, 01865 427075.

**Oxfordshire (The Rifles) Battalion Army Cadet Force**  
Boys and Girls ages 13 to 18. Thursdays 7.30-9.30pm. Blackbird Leys Detachment, Sandy Lane West, Littlemore, OX4 5LD. ☎ 01865 402292

**Maluchy: group for Polish speaking families**  
with children age 0-5, every Saturday at Cuddesdon Corner family centre. 9.30-10.30am

## WELLBEING

**Oxford Survivors Free Drop-in**  
A self-help group of people who use or have used mental health services. Fri and Sat, 10.30am-3.30pm Blackbird Leys community centre.  
☎ 01865 455868  
[oxford.survivors@supanet.com](mailto:oxford.survivors@supanet.com)

**The Listening Centre.**  
A counselling service for Blackbird Leys and Oxford. Cuddesdon Corner Family Centre. Mondays: 12.30pm-8.30pm. Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays: 5.30pm-8.30pm.  
☎ 01865 794794

**Slimming World.**  
Thursdays, 7.00pm, Leisure Centre, Pegasus Road.  
☎ Gill, 01865 730009

## LEISURE

**Irish dancing**  
Sacred Heart Hall. Weds & Thurs, 5pm.

**Boxing training.** Youth Centre at the Leys Linx Centre on Blackbird Leys Rd. Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 7.30-9.00pm.  
☎ 01865 715815.

**Blackbird Leys Swimming Pool**  
Blackbird Leys Road. General swimming times are Mon & Fri 5.45-6.45pm, and Sat & Sun 11.15am-1.00pm. Thursdays, 12-1pm, parent and toddlers. Saturdays and Sundays, 2.30-3.30pm, families only.  
☎ 01865 467042.

**Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre**  
● Bouncy fun for under 5s, Mon 10.30-12pm  
● Body Conditioning, Mon 10-11am  
● Tae Kwon Do, Tue 6-7pm  
● Pilates Beginners, Tue 7-7.45pm  
● Aerotone, Wed 6-7pm  
● Tae kwon Do, Thu 5-6pm  
● Circuit Training, Thu 7.05-7.55pm  
● Boxercise, Fri 10-11am  
● Step & Tone, Fri 6-7pm  
All activities cost from £1.20

## Staying Well



University Department of Psychiatry, Warneford Hospital, Oxford OX3 7JX

# Do you suffer from Depression?

Feeling ok at the moment but worried about a relapse?

Then why not take part in a trial of new psychological treatments designed to help people STAY better?

### If you:

- have been depressed three or more times in the past
- are between 18-70 years old
- are fluent in English

Then you may be eligible to take part.

The research involves an interview and completion of some questionnaires and short tasks at the first assessment and periodically during the 1 year follow-up. Treatment takes place in small weekly evening classes, held in Oxford, over 8 weeks.

### Are you interested?

For more information contact in us confidence on...

Freephone: **0800 083 6130\*** or Landline: **01865 226468**

Email: [recruiters@staying-well.org](mailto:recruiters@staying-well.org)

Visit our Website: [www.staying-well.org](http://www.staying-well.org)



## ADVICE

### Agnes Smith Advice Centre

Gives free independent and impartial advice. Drop-in sessions are in the centre on Mondays 2.00pm–4.00pm and Fridays 10.00am–12.00pm. Also in the Farmhouse on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10.00am–12.00pm.  
☎ 01865 770206

### Business Link Enterprise Gateway

Free advice to people wanting to set up a business.  
☎ 01865 402070

## EDUCATION

### Able Centre

Free courses in Maths and English in friendly groups.  
☎ Annette 776334

### Blitz IT Courses

IT for beginners, internet, email, file management, PC maintenance and more.  
☎ 01865 714492 to find out what is currently on offer.

### Oxford Women's Training Scheme

☎ Helen McLuckie 550227  
hmluckie@ocuc.ac.uk

## OLDER PEOPLE

### The Clockhouse

Activities, Friendship, Learning and Fun for over 50s on the Leys. The Clockhouse is on Long Ground, Greater Leys – look for the clock on the roof.  
☎ Sally Meachim 01865 395908 for more details

## BBLeys Bamboo Qi Gong Club

at The Barn (Off Dunnocks Way), Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7.30 – 8.45pm  
FREE! Learn the relaxing art of Qi Gong by qualified registered instructor. Improve your general health and fitness through gentle exercise. Over 16's all welcome, just turn up.  
*info: 07833 536121*  
*or bbleys.bambooqigong@yahoo.co.uk*

### Oxford Christmas Market

Thursday 10 Dec 2009 to Sunday 20 Dec 2009  
10am–8pm, Venue: Oxford Castle

A German-style Christmas Market which takes place in the heart of the city at the Oxford Castle. Includes 30 stalls selling mainly handmade and fair-trade products, hot mulled wine, gingerbread and seasonal local food.  
*For further details contact*  
*Nicole Rahimi on: 07910 342748*

## Community Christmas

A variety of free family entertainment including live music, activities and some surprises are on offer at The Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford on November 27 from 6pm–9pm. Don't miss the chance for some late night shopping. Refreshments available and there is no need to book. This is a joint event with the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, and part of Oxford's Christmas Light Night celebrations.

## ... CHURCH NEWS ...

### Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Balfour Road, Blackbird Leys (car park in Poulton Place)

#### Regular Services:

Sundays: Masses, 9.30am, with music and children's liturgy. 12noon in Portuguese, and 6.00pm

#### Tuesday 3 November

7.30pm, Mass for the departed, and the bereaved

#### Sunday 15 November

10.35am first meeting for parents about 2010 First Holy Communion classes

**Saturday 28 November,**  
Christmas Bazaar, 2pm

#### Sunday 29 November

Christingle Mass 6pm

#### 6 December,

enrollment of children for First Holy Communion 2010 at 9.30am Mass

#### Sunday 13 December

4pm Intercultural Mass

#### 24 December

6.00pm Family Vigil Mass  
12 Midnight, Midnight Mass

#### 25 December

9.30am Mass

*For all enquiries please phone the church office*  
*01865779658, or try Fr*  
*David's mobile 07765931126*  
*Email to*  
*dm.hartley@tesco.net*

### Leys Community Church

☎ Richard and Kate Colbrook,  
01865 714153.

Meets at 3.30pm on Sunday afternoons at the Church of the Holy Family. Meetings include special activities for children and young people.

### The Church of the Holy Family

☎ Rev David Parry, 01865 778728.  
[www.holyfamilybbl.co.uk](http://www.holyfamilybbl.co.uk)

**Eucharist:** Every Sunday, 10am, with children's church;

**Timeout:** Reflective evening worship. Sundays, 6.30pm

**Church Office Hour:** Mondays, for hall bookings, wedding arrangements and enquiries), 6.30–7.30pm.

**Fellowship for discussion:** Most Wednesdays at 7.30pm. Prayer, Bible study.

## The Leys WI

Leys WI continues to go from strength to strength and the group is always delighted to hear from new members who would like to join or visit one of their regular meetings.

Meetings are from 7.30 to 9.30pm on the first Wednesday of each month at the Clockhouse, Long Ground, Greater Leys.

### Diary

**4 Nov:** Christmas Craft

**2 Dec:** Christmas Quiz and Supper

**6 Jan:** A Town Crier (including Best Bell Competition)

**3 Feb:** Oxford Fiddler Group

**3 March:** AGM

☎ for more info call Rachel Fisher 07863 563583  
[rachelfisher83@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rachelfisher83@yahoo.co.uk)



## YOUR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

### Parish Council

**Chairman:** Gerry Webb,  
**Vice Chair:** Chris Hatton,  
**Treasurer:** Susan Fitzsimons.

**Non-position holders:** Anne Booker, Chris Hatton, Rae Humberstone (see *City Council* section below), Danny Johnston, Cyril Martin, Carol Roberts, Rosemary Morlin, Val Smith (see *City Council* and *County Council* sections), Pat Stannard.

For further details telephone 01865 734346 during office hours of 9am–5pm, Monday to Friday. Answering service outside office hours. The mailing address for the Parish Council is 10 Swan Street, Oxford OX29 4HU.

### Oxford City Council

#### Blackbird Leys Ward:



**Val Smith – Labour**  
4 Flaxfield Road, OX4 6QD  
☎ 01865 305080  
[valsmith@gmail.com](mailto:valsmith@gmail.com)  
or [cllrsmith@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrsmith@oxford.gov.uk)  
(her city councillor entry)



**Rae Humberstone – Labour**  
75 Little Bury, Blackbird Leys  
☎ 01865 779678  
[cllrhumberstone@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrhumberstone@oxford.gov.uk)

Val Smith and Rae Humberstone will be doing street surgeries every other week. They can also visit people in their homes – ring or email to make arrangements.

#### Northfield Brook Ward:



**Stuart Craft – Independent**  
*Working Class Association*  
Furlong Close, Oxford OX4 4QJ  
☎ 07733 274324  
Surgery: Every Tuesday from 6.30 to 7.30pm at the Clockhouse.



**Jane Elizabeth Lacey – Independent**  
*Working Class Association*  
71 Knights Road, Blackbird Leys  
☎ 07947 225297  
Surgery: Tuesday from 6.30pm to 7.30pm at the Clockhouse.

### Oxfordshire County Council

#### Leys & Lye Division:



**Val Smith – Labour**  
4 Flaxfield Road, OX4 6QD  
☎ 01865 305080  
[val.smith@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:val.smith@oxfordshire.gov.uk)



**Richard Stevens – Labour**  
Flat 6 Eaton Court, Water Eaton Road, Oxford OX2 7QT  
☎ 07725 353031  
[richard.stevens@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:richard.stevens@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

### Member of Parliament

#### Member of Parliament for Oxford East



**Andrew Smith – Labour**  
Unit 1,  
Newtec Place,  
Magdalen Road,  
Oxford OX4 1RE

☎ 01865 305080  
[andrewsmith.mp@virgin.net](mailto:andrewsmith.mp@virgin.net)

**Surgery:** Every 3rd Friday at the Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre from 3.00pm



# What do Area Committees do?

The six Area Committees are responsible for the following:

abandoned vehicles • street cleaning  
dog wardens • ditches and streams  
decisions on planning applications  
public toilets • car parks • allotments  
parks and countryside management  
street naming • community centres

### South East Area Committee Meetings:

#### Monday 9th November

Cardinal House, Littlemore (To be confirmed)  
6.30pm

#### Monday 7th December

Blackbird Leys Community Centre  
6.30pm

#### Monday 4th January 2010

Rose Hill Community Centre, The Oval  
6.30pm

For further information ring 01865 252249



Leys News aims to bring you the best in local sporting action. If you would like to sponsor this page please email [editor@leysnews.co.uk](mailto:editor@leysnews.co.uk) or ring 01865 711756

# Leys Sports

# Easy day at the office at Kassam

By Jacek Majewski



THIS WAS SUPPOSED to be an easy afternoon for Oxford United and so it turned out. Greys Athletic – U's Saturday opponent – laid a lowly 19th in the league table before the game but their manager Julian Dicks (ex

West Ham and Liverpool star) was all smiley and in good spirits on entering the stadium.

It was down to the Oxford players to change it.

Before the game Chris Wilder –

the Oxford manager received (again) a bottle of Champaign as Blue Square Manager of the Month and also United's keeper – Ryan Clarke was announced as Player of the Month. Surely there was only ever going to

be one winner in this encounter.

The first few minutes, however, showed that Greys came to Oxford prepared to give it a go. United could not keep the ball and their passes went astray far too often. And then came James Constable. After a free kick was awarded for a needless handball on the right hand side of the Grey's penalty box Constable was allowed a free header and it was 1-0 for the league table leaders (9 mins).

The goal seemed to have deflated Greys players – their only chance to score after careless clearance from Clarke was promptly wasted. After 24 minutes it was already 2-0 but the goal was controversial. Matt Green was slightly quicker to a high ball played into the visitors' penalty box than the Greys keeper, Preston Edwards, and the two collided. The ball fell to Constable who could not miss the empty net. Julian Dicks, after the game, was not very happy with the referee's decision to allow the goal.

The game effectively ended as a competition just before half time after a smooth counterattack and a very unselfish play from Constable who, instead of trying to go for a hat trick, squared the ball in the penalty box to Jamie Cook – 3-0 and game, set, match to Oxford. This was also Constable's last contribution to the game as he was substituted a minute later by Jack Midson after receiving a kick to the knee.

The second half saw the Greys manager introducing Jamie Slabber as a substitute who, together with

another sub – Norwegian Petar Rnkovic gave the visitors more options up front. United, at this stage, were more than happy with keeping possession and using the ball wisely, mainly through their captain Adam Murray bossing the midfield.

After 73 minutes it was 4-0. Another Oxford corner was only half cleared by the Greys defence, Adam Chapman attempted a shot from outside the box but did not hit it with any venom. The ball luckily fell into the path of Midson who had the simple task of tapping it home.

To make matters worse for the visitors they conceded again in the injury time. Lively Midson was brought down in the box by the visitors' goalkeeper who got a second yellow card for his troubles (in all fairness it could have been a straight red as it was a goal scoring opportunity), was dismissed and conceded a penalty. Midson himself made no mistake from the spot and made it 5-0.

## United:

Clarke, Chapman, Creighton, Foster, Kinniburgh, Clist, Bullman, Murray (Woodley), Green (Batt), Constable (Midson), Cook

## Greys:

Edwards, Braham-Barrett, Charge (Rnkovic), Graham, Hoyte, Mawer, Poole, Robson, Uddin, Vernazza, Davis (Slabber)

Referee: R.Merchant (Staffordshire)

Attendance: 6150 (52 visitors)

## MOTORSPORT DIARY

By Kevin Dyer

### Welcome to the brand new Leys News motorsport section



MY NAME IS Kev Dyer and I have worked in motor racing for over 20 years, in many different championships from Drag racing to Formula One and from the stamina testing rigours of the Le Mans 24 hours to the excitement and adrenaline of the Dakar Rally.

Some of you may be surprised to know that Oxfordshire is known world wide as 'motorsport valley' and is part of an industry that generates in excess of two billion pounds of revenue per annum, it is also a major employer in the county. Motorsport has shaped this region for many years, and the industry is going through major changes at the moment. There is always controversy and high drama whether it's the McLaren spy story, the Max Mosley sex scandal or the Renault Crashgate saga.

However we mustn't forget that although one of our local F1 teams was involved in one of the most publicised scandals regarding foul play for many years, the culprits were in a very small minority.

Renault is after all a major team in the series and employs hundreds of local people who strive for personal and team goals based on hard work, technical excellence and competitive spirit.

Motorsport is generally covered in the media with results based sports reporting and announcements about industry developments and sponsorship deals.

We are aiming to give more of an insight into what goes on behind the scenes as well.

With interviews and personal profiles we will familiarise you with the personalities involved from tea ladies to team managers.

With the help of key team members, company representatives and teaching staff from the motorsport engineering division of Oxford and Cherwell Valley College, we will also try to provide helpful information and advice on training and other opportunities for those aspiring towards a career in the industry.

**We hope you enjoy the first edition of the Leys News motor sport section and we would love to hear from you with your news views or opinions, whether you work within the racing world or are one of the many fans and followers of the sport then you can contact us by email at [editor@leysnews.co.uk](mailto:editor@leysnews.co.uk)**

## Oxford boy still riding high



LOCAL BOY Bradley Smith took another podium finish at the Philip Island circuit in Australia on Sunday making it four in a row for the 18 year old from Oxford.

The 18 year old from Oxford fought a race long battle with teammate Julian Simon.

The two Aprilia riders were part of a group of seven that fought each other at the front of the IVECO Australian Grand Prix for most of the race until they pulled away from the pack to delight the crowd with a two bike dogfight that wasn't settled until the final thrilling lap.

The Spaniard now has an unassailable points cache and has secured the title in the Moto GP 125cc championship.

The pair were joined on the podium by German rider Sandro Cortese of team Derbi.

Smith will now concentrate on the remaining two races of the season and on maintaining his position of number two in the world championship.

### Bad luck for local F1 drivers in Brazil

Williams suffered two disappointing results at the Interlagos circuit in Brazil at the weekend. Both drivers had qualified well despite the atrocious weather conditions on Saturday however the Grove based outfit suffered two DNFs (Did Not Finish) on Sunday after a promising start to the race. Nico Rosberg was lying third after making up one place at the start he then lost a place to Kubica after the restart when the safety car had left the circuit. The Austrian driver held position and was still looking good in fourth with a car that looked as if it had the pace to challenge for a podium position, it was then that disaster struck with a forced retirement due to gearbox problems. His teammate Kazuki Nakajima didn't fare much better either. After a reasonable start that saw him gain a few places at the expense of cars involved in various incidents, he lost position during the safety car restart and then became involved in a mid race accident that forced his retirement from the race. We are pleased to report that Nakajima did not suffer any injury during the incident.

### More bad luck for Oxford based F1 teams

The two Renault drivers qualified in 10th and 13th after the longest qualifying session in F1 history due to the torrential rain

Fernando Alonso was a quick candidate for an early shower after he got caught in the fallout from a first lap collision between Jarno Trulli and Adrian Sutil. After a fairly good start from the line and good pace overall, he was unlucky to be hit by the careering force India car as it lost control.

Teammate Romain Grosjean had a somewhat better race as he did at least finish.

After a smooth start from 13th on the grid he appeared to be struggling for pace and was having trouble getting enough heat into the tyres to maintain grip. He was overtaken by several cars during this part of the race and although his pace improved he finished in a career best position of 13th.

It was interesting to note however that the other team currently running Renault engines (Red Bull) finished 1st and 4th, proving that with the right conditions and luck in your favour then the Renault engine is still one of the strongest on the F1 grid.